42-1945

Virginia

Rise Revealed In Delinquency Of Juveniles

Richmond Times Dispatch (Va.) 8-18-45

The Juvenile Bureau of the Police Department investigated 63 per cent more cases in the first seven months of this year than were investigated during the first seven months of 1941, the last prewar year, according to a report submitted to Chief Organ yesterday.

But Lieutenant L. J. Flinn, head of the Juvenile Bureau, said he was unable to put a finger on the direct cause in the sharp increase in juvenile delinquency. Several factors probably are behind the increase, he said, including employed mothers who have been unable to supervise their children.

The report, compiled by Mrs. Margaret S. Kaufman, of the Juvenile Bureau, showed that 552 cases were investigated during the first seven months of 1945, compared to 338 for the first seven months of 1941 and 533 for the entire year 1941. 8-18-45

Lieutenant Flinn said the 552 for this year by no mean was the total number of investigations of juveniles because other members of the Police Department make similar investigations. He said that he had no complete reports on investigations made by others, but he predicted that their total would be far above the 1941 level.

The increase in juvenile delinquency has been noted in both whites and Negroes. The white total jumped from 256 for the first seven months of 1941 to 418 for the similar period this year. The increase among Negroes was from 62 to 134.

43-1945

Missouri General

MURDER, ROBBERY STALKS K. C. MO., FEVER RUNS HIGH

Plaindealer Kansas City, Kans
11-23-45

Kansas City raises her head in righteous and wrathful indignation, and at the same justifiably becomes apprehensive over the unrestrained wave of wanton killings by trigger happy gun weilders. That the situation is fast becoming acute, and dangerous, may be attested to by the jumpy attitude of many merchants whose patronage is predominantly Negro.

Should a perfectly honest, law abiding citizen of color happen to "look like a suspicious character" to some of these merchants having experienced being robbed at the point of a gun, the said citizen's life is in jepoardy. A perfectly harmless move might be the signing of a death warrant, such is the fear now existing, and growing, in Kansas City.

Police records would reveal that the current crime wave is the usual forerunner of the holiday season. The difference, however, rests in the fact that murder has been added to the usual holdup routine. Too, with defense plants closed and war bonds cashed in, armed robbery, purse snatching and house-breaking might show an increase as seasonal crime comes into its orbit.

Motorists who leave overcoats, purses, luggage and packages in their cars, although locked, are inviting trouble. Prowlers specializing in car-breaking watch motorists and in the twinkling of an eye either force doors or break windows.

11-23-45

The main objective, however, is to curb the murder parade. Since October 9, thirteen murders have been committed. Of this number eight, according to police records, were committed by Negroes. Two remain unsolved, and three were attributed to whites.

October 9—Henry Gannon, 43, 4107 Wayne, was shot at 1601 Virginia, in an attempted holdup. Theodore Roosevelt Rhone, 20, 2204 East Twentieth, and Jack Owens, 19, 1211 Park, are in jail awaiting trial in connection with the murder.

October 16—Mrs. Alice Brown, 559 Westport road, was shot and killed. Earl Brown, 63, of the same address, is in jail awaiting trial.

October 17—Frank A. Warner, 75, 1527 Wabash, found beaten on his porch. Died the next day at General hospital. John S. Maulsby, 70, 2619 East Eighteenth street, was shot and killed. Orville V. Hess, 28, 1846 Benton, and Julius Ragland, 24, 1024 Park, are in jail awaiting trial in connection with both killings. Police records reveal that Hess confessed shooting Maulsby, and that Ragland admits complication in both killings.

October 26—Mrs. Willa Mae Lewis, 15-year old mother, was stabbed to death at her home, 1937 East Eighth. Eugene Dunlap, 28, 1212 Michigan, has been charged with first degree murder.

October 27 — Mrs. Barbara Young, 53, 703 East Twelfth, was beaten to death. Police records show that her husband, Phil H. Young, 56, has been charged with first degree murder.

October 29—Robert Taylor, 49, 1713 East Nineteenth, was stabbed to death. Alexander Traver, 22, is awaiting trial on a murder charge. William R. Brown, 1021 East Fourteenth, was shot and killed. Henry Holder is awaiting trial for first degree murder.

October 30—Arthur B. Gilmore, 626 Charlotte, was found fatally wounded at Fifth and Grand. (This murder remains unsolved.)

November 6—P. C. Morrow, 60, 516 Gillis, was fatally shot on Fifth near Cherry by a group of unidentified men riding in a motor car. (This murder remains unsolved.)

November 12—Nick Patito, 49, was shot and killed in an attempted holdup of a liquor store, 12th at Park. Patito wounded two of the three bandits. Four men are in police custody in connection with the killing.

November 15—Tony Bill Jackson, 55, Densmore hotel, was shot and killed in an attempted holdup of a liquor store, Fifteenth and Lydia. A Negro assailant is sought. Forty-six Negroes went through the police showup by noon Saturday as the police stage a relentless search for the killer. A Negro was taken off a freight train at Joplin, Missouri, Friday night. Joplin police telephoned Kansas City and revealed that a man resembling the description of the man sought was being held for them.

November 16—Finuel Stepny, 24, 912 Vine, was shot and killed at Cooper's Southern Grill, 1702 East Twelfth, about 9 o'clock. The murderer escaped. Police reports are that about midnight, a man, giving his name as George E. Holder, 32, and 2015 East Ninth street address, came to headquarters and admitted the shooting. Discharge papers in the victims pocket revealed that he was just out of the army the day before and had served overseas.

11-23-45

A total of 13 killings since October 9: Negroes killing Negroes on October 16, 26, 29(2); Negroes killing whites: October 9, 17 (2); November murders, Negroes killing Negroes: November 16. Whites killing whites: October 27. November 12.

43-1945

New York

POLICEMAN IS SLAIN, CRAZED MAN KILLED

New York Times

Ex-Service Man on First Night Duty Is Victim of a Maniac Who Dies in Later Battle

N.Y., N.Y. 11-18-45

Patrolman Francis G. McKeon, after three years in the Navy, came home unharmed from the war to his wife and two small children, only to meet violent death at the hands of a crazed Negro janitor at dawn yesterday near the end of his first night tour of duty.

Unaware at the time that McKeon, clubbed, and shot through the head with his own revolver, lay dead in adjacent Highbridge Park, fellow policemen were fighting a furious battle with his slayer at 174th Street and Amsterdam Avenue that ended when one of the policemen put a bullet through the heart of the killer.

Not far from the scene of the double slaying, in their home at 530 Audubon Avenue, McKeon's wife Julia waited for 8 A. M. and the return of her husband. They were to celebrate the birthday of their youngest child, Jane Ann, one month old yesterday. Another daughter, Mary Ellen, is 2½ years old. 11-18-45

Dives Through Window

It was at 6 A. M. that the alarm clock went off in the ground-floor rear flat occupied by the janitor, Wilbur Farrar, 37, at 515 West 174th Street. His wife got out of bed, dressed and started for the basement to stoke the furnace when she heard a crash of glass. She returned to find that Farrar had dived through a screened window and was standing in the rear yard. He turned on her and she ran, screaming, to the hallway and out the front door.

Patrolman McKeon, on duty on near-by St. Nicholas Avenue, was sent to the scene after terrified neighbors had called the police. He arrived to find the janitor, clad only in his underwear, running toward Highbridge Park, which fronts Amsterdam Avenue opposite 174th Street. The patrolman shouted a command to halt but the janitor kept on. Once inside the park, Farrar stopped short, whirled and grabbed for the policeman's night stick. A struggle, which from later indications lasted many minutes ensued, in which Farrar beat the policeman into insensibility with his own nightstick. Then, as McKeon lay prostrate, the maniac took the policeman's service revolver and fired a single shot into his head. 11-18-45

Fires Two Shots Wildly

Leaving the body, Farrar dashed out of the park to Amsterdam Avenue. Waving the policeman's revolver wildly, he stopped to fire two shots, one at a passing automobile, and the second at a trolley, narrowly missing the motorman.

The janitor returned to the vicinity of the apartment building, shouting, and police again were notified. By the time radio patrolmen William Driwanga and Thomas Mitchell of the Wadsworth Avenue Station arrived, Farrar had smashed the glass in a parked car and gotten inside.

He fired at the police until the sixth and last shot was spent from McKeon's revolver, and they returned his fire. Then they closed in and tried to pull him out of the car. He used McKeon's club and also bit the policemen. They succeeded in hauling him out, but still fighting furiously, he broke away.

Farrar ran to the radio patrol car, its motor still going, and leaped in. Patrolmen Julius Jacobson and Denis Curry arrived at that moment in a second radio car. They leaped out, firing. As Farrar tried to start the car, Patrolman Jacobson took deliberate aim and killed him.

Altogether the police fired a dozen shots, but Jacobson's was the only one that took effect.

Body Found by Dog

Not until the service revolver and the policeman's nightstick were found in the street, did the policemen on the scene suspect anything else had happened. A short time later McKeon's body was found in the park. Alex Constas, of 504 West 174th Street, who was walking his dog, said the animal had led him to the spot.

McKeon, 27, a yeoman first class, had been mustered out of the Navy on Oct. 9. Four days later he resumed his police post, received a vacation and returned to active duty last Sunday. Friday night was his first tour of night duty and he was to have gone off at 8 A. M. yesterday.

Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander took personal charge of the investigation. He said Patrolman McKeon "certainly displayed extreme courage," adding: "He did all that could be expected of any policeman. He did his job well."

Assistant District Attorney Louis A. Pagnucco said the tragedy "again emphasizes the urgent need for more police to patrol the streets of this city." A check at Police Headquarters disclosed that the Wadsworth Avenue Station in Washington Heights, where McKeon was attached, has nineteen fewer patrolmen than it did in 1941. The number there now is 144 as against 163 four years ago.

Fifth I liceman Killed

Records disclosed that McKeon was the fifth policeman this year to be killed in the line of duty.

The fatal chain of events that started with the janitor's leap through the window had as a by-product still other casualties. Speeding to the scene of the battle in their police radio car, two other patrolmen, Edward Dunphy and Thomas Hennigan, crashed into an elevated pillar of the IRT subway line at Broadway and 219th Street. 11-18-45

Dunphy, seriously injured, was taken to Jewish Memorial Hospital with a brain concussion, lacerated scalp, facial contusions and possibly a fractured skull.

Patrolman Mitchell and Driwanga who battled Farrar in the parked car and on the street were treated at Mother Cabrini Hospital for bites and scratches of the hands and face.

McKeon was appointed to the department Sept. 4, 1941, and was inducted into the Navy Oct. 6, 1942.

Press Over-Plays Janitor's Killing

New York Amsterdam News

New York, N.Y. 12-1-45

Mrs. Winnie Farrar, widow of the Washington Heights apartment house superintendent who was shot to death by two policemen last Saturday after Patrolman Francis G. McKeon had been fatally wounded, wired the policeman's widow Tuesday the following telegram:

"Sympathy to a broken-hearted wife and her children from a broken-hearted wife and mother."

The message was signed by Mrs. Farrar and her mother-in-law, Mrs. Ida Farrar, following the most relentless and pointed anti-Negro newspaper campaign directed at Harlem, by inference, since the "mugging crusade" in 1941.

The daily newspaper reporters had described Mrs. Farrar's husband, Wilbur, as a crazed Negro janitor, or "super" of an apartment house at 515 West 174th Street. 12-1-45

Case Over-emphasized

They had said also that the slain cop was a hero; that he had done all that was expected in a crisis involving life and death.

So far as the AMSTERDAM NEWS learned, there was over-emphasis along lines of bias and not enough history on the actual facts.

Wilbur Farrar, for instance, was not quite 35, was born in Charlottesville, Va., got married very young, was the father of two sons who are in the U. S. Army, had lived a rather quiet and uneventful life until he became ill two years ago.

Prior to his illness, Farrar was an automobile mechanic. Mrs. Winnie Farrar was his second wife and they made the decision to take the 174th Street job because (1) it presumably was easier on him physically and (2) he would be near Medical Center where he anticipated going frequently for treatment.

Intimate Details

These and many other intimate details of Farrar's life were related to an audience at the Victory Baptist Church in the Bronx Sunday night by the woman who should know, the janitor's mother.

But, records in possession of the AMSTERDAM NEWS show, most of the dailies did not bother about covering his phase of the tragedy and that, Mrs. Farrar said this week, was the main reason why she decided to send Mrs. McKeon the telegram.

He's No Criminal

"You'd think," the woman who married Farrar seven years ago said, "that my husband was a criminal, if what the daily newspapers reported was accepted as fact. My mother-in-law had 12 children and they are all living except Wilbur. And this was the first time that any of the children have been involved with the law."

On the day before the tragedy, it was added, Wilbur had gone to Medical Center for treatment.

He Seldom Smoked

"He seldom smoked and never drank," Mrs. Farrar went on, "and when he was away from home it usually was because of visits to the doctor. He was so concerned, too much at times I think, about my welfare and his health."

Funeral services were scheduled to be held at the Perkins Home on West 145th Street, Teusday within a few hours of the services for Patrolman McKeon at the Walter B. Cooke Home, Tremont Avenue and the Bronx Concourse.

Farrar's body was then shipped to his native home in Charlottesville. 12-1-45

An Inspector's funeral was planned for Patrolman McKeon, father of two young children who had returned to duty only a week ago after serving three years in the Navy.

Obvious Drama

Top-flight city and police officials were expected and most dailies assigned their ace reporters to dramatize, obviously for the morbidly curious, the tragic fact that New York City could use about 5,000 more cops.

As an instance of what reporters can do when the effort to "prove" a point is guided, the dailies emphasized that Farrar weighed 210, was "powerfully built" and "crazy."

The fact that no person is eligible to become a policeman, if he does not measure up to certain standards in size, physical prowess and age, was never mentioned in connection with Patrolman McKeon.

That Patrolman McKeon actually ignored all danger, simply because Farrar was a Negro in the opinion of some, was not mentioned at all.

43a-1945

~~Discussions~~ General

Woman, 2 Others Executed in N.C.

BFRO-AMERICAN
Balt. Md. 1-6-45

RALEIGH, N.C.—Two persons, one a woman, were executed in the State's gas chamber here December 29 for the murder of a white Mecklenburg County taxicab driver, while a third died for the criminal attack upon a 12-year-old colored girl.

They were Miss Bessie M. Williams, 19, and Ralph Thompson, 18, of Charlotte, who admitted participation in the murder of Mack Minyard, and Melvin Wade, 24, of Laurinburg, who maintained innocence of the attack.

The first woman executed in North Carolina in two years, Miss Williams entered the chamber weeping although reconciled to her fate. Expressing belief that he had been forgiven, Thompson went to his death calmly.

Five Ministers Present

The only one to talk after entering the chamber, Wade, who was convicted in Scotland County in August, accepted last rites of the Catholic Church. Twenty-eight persons, including five ministers, witnessed the executions.

Annie M. Allison, 15, had also been sentenced to death in connection with the murder, but her sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by Governor Broughton because of her age. She was 14 when the murder was committed.

The fourth member of the party, Cleve Johnson, whopleaded guilty and turned State's evidence, was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 25-30 years. He escaped but was later apprehended in Ohio.

DEMAND PUNISHMENT

Philadelphia Tribune

DOTHAN, Ala.—(ANP)— Stern justice for law violators and especially murderers was demanded here last week by a committee of 51 Negro citizens. 6-23-45

The general opinion of the group was that killers get off "too easy" in Houston county. Pa.

NATIONAL ROUNDUP

Youth, 16, Slain In Virginia Riot

see 75a-Riots
Chicago Defender

MANASSAS, Va.—A 16-year-old Negro youth was dead this week as a result of injuries sustained in a riot involving more than 3,000 persons which state troopers, armed with machine guns, finally quelled. Chicago, Ill.

Dead following the free-for-all, which occurred at the horse show grounds two miles from here, was Orvine Lacy of Marshall, Va. Two white police officers, whose efforts to bar a liquor truck from entering the horse show grounds is alleged to have touched off the disturbance, were slightly injured. They are Sheriff John Curling of Prince William county and his deputy, Turner Wheeling.

According to Curling, the dead youth was slugged during the melee by one of the crowd. He died two hours later in Alexandria hospital. 9-15-45

The officers' account of the incident states that they were attacked by the throng of spectators after they had ordered a truck containing liquor not to enter the gates. Curling states that he was knocked to the ground and that when his deputy attempted to aid him, he too was downed and beaten.

Sheriff 'Escapes'

Capt. E. J. McDermott of the state police said that Curling was picked up from the ground by approximately 25 persons, propped against the truck and beaten after being stripped of his blackjack and revolver. The sheriff, however, managed to escape and summon state troopers who arrived, armed to the teeth, and closed the show.

Held in connection with the disturbance are: Irving Gaskins, under $2500 bond for assault with intent to kill Sheriff Curling; Roosevelt Pruitt, John Phillips and Willie Shellington of Gainesville, Va. Charges will be heard Sept. 19.

Although no indication that federal intervention was necessary has been given, 100 MPs and Signal Corps soldiers stationed at Vint Hill, Va., were also summoned to quell the so-called riot. In addition to the servicemen, a number of white citizens were deputized and armed.

The soldiers and posse remained on duty two hours after the state troopers had closed the fair ground gates and dispersed the crowd.

List 52nd Homicide Here For The Year

The Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia 10-2-45

The 52nd homicide of the year was written in police records, when Enuel Heard, 25, of 499 Auburn Ave., N. E., was slashed on the right side of his throat, early Saturday morning, on Auburn Avenue between Butler and Bell Streets.

When Officers W. R. Bailey and H. E. Daniel arrived on the scene, they learned that the deceased had been carried to Grady hospital. The officers, however, interview two eye witnesses, who were waiting for a cab at the corner of Auburn and Butler Street.

The officers quoted these witnesses as saying that they saw four girls and two men on the street. Then there was a commotion and the victim staggered across the street and fell in front of 239 Auburn Avenue. One of the girls advised the suspect to leave and he is reported to have run east on Auburn, while the girls caught a cab, headed west on Auburn Avenue.

Taxicab Driver Slaying Victim

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Joe Lee Castellow, age 30, of 255 Stafford St., S. W., was pronounced dead here Friday night upon arrival at Grady hospital, sending the violence slaying figures for Negroes to 54 with three months to go before the year ends.

The slaying occurred Friday night, police estimated, at about 11 p. m. on the corner of Hillard and Cain Streets. Atlanta Detectives Acree and Christian stated that upon their arrival at the scene of the crime, they found Officers H. L. Tuggle and Reynolds, who reported they found the victim, a cab driver, lying at the corner and his parked automobile across the street about fifty feet away.

Willie Richardson told officers he saw the slain man get out of the back of the car and go around to where a male passenger was. [illegible]ly there after, he said, a woma got out from the driver's seat. Th men were arguing, he added. a scuffle followed and three shot were fired.

Castellow, police said, was shot once under the left arm and once in the left arm, one bullet coming out on the right side. Richardson, who gave his address at 206 Cain Street told police that he was on his way home and that following the firing of the pistol he saw the victim run and fall and he in turn summoned police. Richard Wilson, 196 Hilliard Street, also testified to police that he heard three pistol shots and saw the victim lying on the ground.

Police late Saturday night were unable to identify the assailant in the slaying or to assign a motive.

Negro Killed, Women Hurt In Street Shooting

Birmingham News

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., Oct. 22 — A shooting affray, in which a Negro was killed and two women who were passing the scene, were wounded, is being investigated today by County Solicitor Edward De Graffenreid. Birmingham, Ala.

The dead man was Roosevelt Finney, about 30.

The injured are Miss Mary Culberson, who was struck in the foot, and Mrs. Veal Hartley, who was shot in the arm. Both were treated at the Druid City Hospital and dismissed. 10-22-45

Policeman G. L. Elliott, one of the officers investigating, said the affray occurred Saturday night and that Tossie King, of Tuscaloosa, is under bond charged with murder.

Homicide Rate Still Soaring In Atlanta

Atlanta Daily World

Ga.

Atlanta chalked up its 56th homicide for ten and one-half months of 1945.

James Banks of 707 Fair street, Apartment 229 was fatally injured as a victim of stabbing about 9:30 Saturday night at the corner of Elm and Fair streets. A reported second victim of the same assailant is Leroy Smith, 23 of Rhodes street who is in a critical condition at Grady.

56

10-16-45

Officers Harris and Rowell reported that they took Banks and Smith to Grady Hospital, but they had no idea that Banks was so seriously injured; they tagged him 'Hold for Police," as he had been drinking.

The officers state that they questioned Smith as to the identity of the assailant. They were told that Jake Cheney stabbed both men When Banks was questioned he corrobarated the fact that it was Cheney stabbed them. The officers were unable to further question Banks as he was in a state of shock. Cases were made against Banks and Smith for drinking and disorderly fighting. The case against Banks was dismissed as he died about 5 o'clock Sunday morning without making further testimony. Smith was to have been arrainged in Recorder's Court Monday, on the above charges but the hearing was postponed because of his condition.

After Smith had been treated for injuries, he disappeared from the X-ray room and from the hospital but was later picked up by Officers Slate and Blair, who returned to Grady.

10-16-45

Jake Cheney is still at large; his address is not known.

Maynard Vaughn, Rear 556 St. Charles Way died as a result of a bullet wound through the heart, late Saturday night, at the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Ivy street.

Officers R. J. Bradley and R. W. Gilstrap filed separate reports to the Police Department in which they said that Vaughn was shot when he reached in his back pocket during a scuffle with Officer Bradley. Officer Bradley reported that he shot the victim because he thought Vaughn had a dangerous weapon.

According to the report policemen were in front of Smith's Wine Store, 98 Decatur street, when Vaughn pushed several colored people out of the doorway. When the victim came out of the store they arrested him.

Patrolman Bradley stated that he was walking up Decatur toward Ivy street with Vaughn, when the victim started fighting. "I grabbed his clothes and he threw me down," the officer said.

Vaughn then broke and ran. Officer Bradley said, so he jumped in his car and caught the victim at the corner of Ivy and Edgewood. "When I started toward him, he started hitting me, but I knocked him off with my black-jack," Officer Bradley continued, "and when he reached in his pocket, I shot him in the heart." Vaughn was pronounced dead on the scene.

Officer Gilstrap stated in his report that he followed Officer Bradley and arrived on the scene when Vaughn reached in his back pocket.

Light Punishment For Taking Human Life

Journal & Guide

Norfolk, Va. 11-24-45

WE HAVE often commented in these columns on light penalties given by juries to convicted persons in homicide cases when all the principals are of the Negro race. For the record we wish to comment on a few recent cases.

In Norfolk's Corporation Court, Part II, the past week, a man who cut his wife to death was given a sentence of one year in prison after conviction of "involuntary manslaughter." The story is that the man was walking along a road with his wife when the two became involved in an argument. The convicted man admitted he took out his knife and slashed at his wife with it "and kept walking." Later he discovered his wife did not follow him, and returning found police officers in charge of her and she was dying from loss of blood. He pleaded that he didn't intend to kill his wife so the jury gave him a year in prison, which we think is a verdict that does no credit to the jury.

In Richmond's Hustings Court the past week, a woman who had shot a man to death was acquitted by a jury upon her testimony that she thought the gun with which she shot the man was a toy pistol. She was promptly acquitted.

We didn't hear the testimony in either case—only read accounts of it in the newspapers. However, we still believe that juries are too lenient with angry husbands who cut their wives with deadly weapons with "no intention of killing them," and with ladies who shoot their friends with loaded guns which they think are toys.

11-24-45

Another phase of questionable justice might be commented on under the heading of "settlement for manslaughter." In Nash County, (N. C.) last summer a white farmer stabbed a colored man in the abdomen and the victim died from the wound. Upon trial the farmer was sentenced to three to five years in state prison for manslaughter but the court suspended the sentence and placed the farmer on probation for five years. But in addition the court required the farmer to pay to the administratrix of the estate of the deceased victim the sum of $4,750, noting that the defendant had already paid hospital and funeral bills for his victim in the amount of $605.

At least a suspended sentence in a case of this kind does not look so bad when one of the conditions for it is the payment to the dependents of the deceased a sum in excess of $5,000. We commend the North Carolina court for putting some value on the life of a Negro. It is not generally done in these parts. Also, we would feel better about it if this evaluation was expressed in something that is more of a deterrent than a cash settlement.

Weekend Slayings Hike Totals To 68

The Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

Three murders over the weekend increased the total homicides for the year to sixty-eight. As usual the switch-blade knife and ice pick were the weapons employed.

Goldin Daniel, 27 of Rear 248 Harris Street, N. E., died a few minutes after arriving at the Grady Hospital with stab wounds in his back, late Saturday afternoon.

68

12-11-45

Officers J. A. Preston and E. C. Newton first went to the Colored Clinic and talked with eye-witnesses. They later visited the scene of the murder and interviewed other witnesses.

These officers said that the witnesses told them the deceased was sitting in a business establishment, near the corner of Harris and Butler Streets, drinking beer and talking with ome friends. Johnny Moore 20 of 315 Piedmont, the officers said, walked in and without any argument, slapped the deceased to the floor and stabbed him once in the back.

The officers further quoted the the witnesses as saying that Moore chased the deceased out on Harris Street and stabbed him three more times. No reason was listed for the crime and there will be no inquest.

SOLDIER STABBED WITH ICE PICK

Preston Nalls, 24, of 829 Humphries Street, SW, a soldier, home on furlough was stabbed once just above the heart with an ice pick around 8:30 Saturday night and was pronounced "dead on arrival" at Grady Hospital.

12-11-45

According to Policeman A. C. Potts and M. Y. Rutherford, the body of the soldier was found at the corner of Rockwell and Hubbard Streets, but the stabbing took place at McDaniel and Rockwell Streets.

The officers' report stated that the soldier and two girls, Gertrude Weems, 15, of 460 Berkle Street, S. W., and Doris Fears, 24, of 287 Glenn Street, SW, were in a place of business on McDaniel Street. An argument started because the soldier removed the ice pick from Miss Weems' purse.

The proprietor is reported to have asked them to leave the place, which they did. Following the stabbing which took place on the outside the deceased ran one block and fell. The two girls were arested on suspicion and were marked "Hold For Material Witnesses.'

According to the police, a dark skinned man, approximately 25 years of age, five feet ten inches tall, weighing about 200 pounds is wanted for the crime. The alleged murderer was said to have been wearing gray pants, and had long hair.

12-11-45

MAN DIES AFTER STABBING

Lee Toney, alias Tomes, 25, of 428 Rock Street was cut in the right head, shortly after midnight, Sunday, at his home and died around 8 o'clock Monday morning at Grady Hospital.

Officer I. M. Helton and C. P. Wiley reported that they first answered a call to the Grady Clinic and then went to the home of the deceased, where they talked with his common-law wife.

The officers quoted Mrs. Toney as saying that the deceased had been drinking when he came home and started beating her and her mother. She is also reported to have told them that her son. Eugene Clark, 15 grabbed a knife and stabbed the deceased. Clark was turned over to the Juvenile Court on a charge of "Suspicion of Assault."

43c-1945

Mobile Cop Kills Innocent Youth

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

By JOHN LE FLORE
Defender Staff Correspondent

MOBILE, Ala. — In what would ordinarily be classed as a case of cold-blooded murder—a "trigger happy" officer of the Mobile police force, firing at point-blank range, shot and fatally wounded innocent and defenseless Prentiss McCann, 22, at the Midway Club here last Saturday night.

7-28-45

The youth was shot twice, in the temple and forehead by Scout Officer Melvin Porter who, along with Pat Gibney, another white officer and driver of the police car, was attempting to raid a dice game on the grounds of the club, which is a tavern in the Maysville section of the city.

McCann, a Brooklyn Field army air depot truck driver and father of three small children, was on his way to a grocery store when he stopped for a moment to observe the excitement of participants of the game. The police scout car with lights out approached the scene from a side street and came to a sudden stop only a few feet from where the men gaming and onlookers were congregated. Practically all of the persons who were in the game fled.

7-28-45

McCann, perhaps unaware of what was actually taking place, continued to stand with arms folded. Porter fired from the window of the right front door of the car as it came to a stop.

Indignation of the colored citizenry was further animated when State Solicitor Carl M. Booth exonerated Porter upon a statement given by the officers that they acted in self-defense.

Soldier Slain At Fort McPherson

Atlanta Daily
8-3-45

A Negro soldier, listed as Robert L. Davis, of Birmingham, Alabama was shot to death by a guard at Fort McPherson Thursday night, when he attempted to escape from the post hospital, Fort McPherson public relations Officer reported Saturday.

Atlanta, Ga.

Captain George Merriam, Judge advocate officer, who was in charge of the investigation for the Army provost authorities, said after the investigation had been completed, that the soldier was previously arrested by a civilian Atlanta policeman Thursday night on a drunk and disorderly conduct charge. He said that the soldier attempted to resist arrest by kicking the police officer. The policeman overpowered the soldier by beating him over the head, it was stated.

After Davis was turned over to military authorities he was taken to Fort McPherson's post hospital for treatment. While Army doctors were dressing the cuts on him he reportedly attempted to escape. A guard on duty ordered him to stop three times, then fired but the soldier kept running the report stated. Merriam said the first shot wounded Davis in the arm. The guard ordered him to stop three times more but he allegedly continued running, then the guard fired again. This time Davis fell and died immediately.

Witnesses, who were present when Davis was shot, verified the guard's report, stating that Davis was shot in accordance with military orders

The next of kin have been notified of the fatal shooting.

Union Springs Negro Is Killed By Officer

Bham, Ala. Age-Herald
Oct. '45

UNION SPRINGS, ALA., Oct. 13.—(AP)—A negro "between 60 and 65" years old was shot to death here this morning by a policeman he tried to disarm, Assistant Chief Hollis Whittle reported.

Whittle said Officer Dewey Bradley killed the negro, identified as Edgar Thomas, after the latter "made a pass at him" and tried to take his gun.

The assistant chief related the negro had threatened to kill Bradley because the policeman arrested him last Sunday on a charge of disorderly conduct.

The shooting occurred, Whittle added, when Bradley went to the negro's home to question him about the threats.

Store

Alabama

JURY FREES COP AFTER BRUTAL MURDER OF AGED NEGRO WOMAN

Plain dealer
Kansas City, Ka.

Selma, Ala. (ANP)—J. D. Booker, city police officer, was acquitted after a Dallas County jury returned a verdict of not guilty in connection with his trial for the murder of Mrs. Nicey Brown, aged resident of this community, three months ago. Witnesses attending the trial were shocked by the prejudiced remarks addressed to the court by James Pitts, local defense attorney who declared, "If we convict this brave man who is upholding the banner of white supremacy by his actions, then we may as well give all of our guns to the niggers and let run the Black Belt."

10-12-45

The 12 farmers deliberated only a few seconds then voted to free the policeman. This case attracted considerable interest as earlier a Dallas County Grand jury had indicted the officer for first degree murder and ordered him held without bond. Attempts at habeas corpus failed as the circuit judge refused to grant bail.

Mrs. Brown was slain at her home in July as she went to the door to answer the officer's knock as he in a drunken condition and off duty sought the whereabouts of her daughter. Angry because she was unable to provide him the information he sought, Booker began to beat the aged woman unmercifully, Alarmed at the disturbance her husband, in bed, hurriedly dressed and seizing his shotgun fired on the officer seriously wounding him. Representatives of the sheriff's office in answering a summons to the Brown residence are reported to have stated that Booker should have been slain instead of wounded for his brutal murder of the woman.

10-12-45

Although both white and colored citizens protested Booker's actions and demanded his full punishment for this brutal crime, Dallas county's love for the maintenance of white supremacy at all costs proved too great.

Jus Negro Ne-
Atl

The many friends of Mr. R. Thomas, of Union Springs, were shocked to learn of his tragic death Saturday morning last. He was killed by a policeman in his business establishment. The deceased had conducted a successful business

10-18-45

Officer Kills Prominent Man

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Va.

UNION SPRINGS, Ala.—(ANP)—Edgar Thomas, 60, was shot to death Saturday morning at his home here, by police officer Dewey Bradley, white. According to assistant police chief Hollis Whittle, the elderly Thomas sought to disarm the policeman but citizens here are describing the killing as "a wanton murder."

10-27-45

Edgar Thomas was a member of an old, highly respected and substantial family of Union Springs. The father of a successful family, three of his daughters are graduates of Tuskegee Institute. One is a nurse in Detroit. Two others are working in New York City, one being a dietitian at the Harlem Branch YWCA. His two sons are in the Army.

THE THOMAS FAMILY

The Thomas family has always been known for its independence and fearlessness. Twenty years ago, John L. Thomas, father of the slain man was "run out" of Union Springs because he took an upstanding attitude toward a prominent white man in a dispute and demanded his rights. John L. Thomas moved to Chicago where he operated a successful second-hand business. He is living there in retirement.

The assistant chief said that Officer Bradley killed Edgar Thomas after the latter "made a pass at him" and tried to take the officer's gun. Bradley arrested Thoma slast Sunday on a disorderly charge and claimed that Thomas was circulating threats against his life. According to Whittle, Bradley went to Thomas home to question him about the threats.

at the store

Store

Escaped Negro Convict Killed At Bessemer

Birmingham News
Ala.

BESSEMER, Ala., Dec. 22—(AP)—An escaped Negro convict was killed here yesterday while burglarizing a store, Police Chief Lacey Alexander reported.

The chief said two patrolmen shot the Negro seven times as he emerged from hiding in the store with a hand on his hip pocket.

The man was identified as Henry Hurd, alias Wilbur Davis, who escaped from Kilby last month while serving a term for burglary and grand larceny. 12-22-45

Alexander said no gun was found on the man.

Investigator Exposes Alabama Terror Campaign

Memphis World

Union Springs Police Department Stands Accused

TENN.

12-25-45

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— (SNS) — Terror against the Negro people of South Alabama rages according to reports. Edgar Thomas, Ed Day Gary, war veteran and Jesse Hytower have all been victims of police brutality and murder since October 7th in Union Springs. An alarming number of Negro citizens and businessmen have been driven out of the city as a result of the ruthless campaign of terror instituted by the Union Springs police department. These are the facts uncovered by Kenneth C. Kennedy, Southern Negro Youth Congress Student Staff member.

On Oct. 7, 1945, Edgar Thomas, age 65, a wealthy Negro business man and property owner of Union Springs was in his store discussing the race problem with a companion. Dewey Bradley, a police officer appeared at the door presumably to get a beer. Overhearing the conversation he proceeded to the rear of the building, broke into the store and beat Thomas unmercifully finally arresting him on a charge of disorderly conduct. Thomas was released on bail shortly after upon protests of white friends.

CLAIM THREATS

According to Bradley, Thomas then made threats on his life. On Saturday morning, Oct. 13, Bradley returned to Thomas' store with another officer and shot him in cold blood using a pistol and sawed off shot gun. Rev. J. L. Pinkney, a Negro business man next door to Thomas and a witness to the shooting was ordered to leave town before sundown. Pinkney is now in Chicago. Other witnesses refuse to allow their names to be used or to discuss the matter because of warnings and threats made by Bradley.

A few weeks later Ed Day Gary, a Negro war veteran was shot thru the eye by Bradley. Gary is now in Tuskegee Veterans Hospital where he has had his eye removed.

ANOTHER VICTIM

The last of Bradley's known victims was Jesse Hytower. Hytower was shot to death after an unmerciful beating by Bradley. His 'crime' was possession of a knife.

Bradley walks the streets of Union Springs a free man. He has, however, been relieved of his police duties by the City Council.

The Southern Negro Youth Congress is forwarding a complete report of these incidents to the Department of Justice. Under a recent ruling of the Court in the Screws case, the Department of Justice is bound to take action against Bradley.

Police Slay Kilby Escape In Bessemer

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga. 12-25-45

BESSEMER, Ala. —(SNS)— Two un-named policemen shot to death Henry Hurd, Alias Wilbur Davis, escaped Kilby convict, here Dec. 21.

Police Chief Lacey Alexander said that the two patrolmen doing the fatal shooting said they trapped the slain man hiding in a store with his hands on his hips. The Chief said that no gun was found on the dead ex-convict. 12-25-45

ESCAPED CONVICT SLAIN IN ROBBERY

The Birmingham Ala.
Age Herald

Bessemer Police Kill Burglar In State Liquor Store

BESSEMER, Ala., Dec. 21—A Negro escapee from Kilby Prison was shot and killed by police early today in the State Liquor Store at Fourth Avenue and North 20th Street here after the Negro had broken a side window of the store and removed two cases of whisky, Police Chief Lacey Alexander said.

The Negro, identified as Henry Hurd, alias Wilbur Davis, about 25, was shot and killed by Officers Lawton Grimes and H. W. Dixon when he came out of hiding in the store with a hand in his hip pocket, the chief asserted.

Hurd, he added, was shot seven times and killed instantly. No gun was found on the dead man.

The Negro, the chief said, had placed two cases of whisky in a Chevrolet sedan with Florida license plates and an investigation was under way to determine if the car had been stolen. 12-22-45

Chief Alexander said that Hurd escaped from Kilby Prison last November after being sent there two months before from Jefferson County for burglary and grand larceny. He also had a criminal record in Bibb County, the Bessemer official declared.

43c-1945

California

Policeman acquitted in third killing of month

Patrolman Donald E. Mills, slayer of the third Negro to be killed by white police officers in less than a month, was given a clean bill of health last Monday when a coroner's jury declared his shooting of suspected tire thief Clyde Blake, 26, "justifiable homicide". Blake was killed instantly by the officer Nov. 20 as he ran south on Broadway near Vernon, trying to evade arrest.

Testifying at the inquest, Mills related how he gave chase on foot to Blake and a suspected accomplice, Frank Harden Woods, 22, after forcing the suspects' car to the curb.

"I hollered halt. They kept on running," Mills said. "I ran up to the corner, hollered halt again. I fired one shot in the air, hollered halt again. I fired one shot at the nearest defendant—he was the deceased, Blake." According to the officer, Blake was about 125 or 150 feet away when shot.

Woods managed to escape from the officers but was later apprehended at his home. A third suspect, Charlie Lee Phillips, 31, driver of the suspects' car, was taken into custody at the scene by Officer Smith. According to Mills' testimony, "He owned up that the tires were stolen."

"IT WON'T BE THE LAST"

Asked by a TRIBUNE reporter following the inquest if Blake's death was the first time he had shot a man, Mills replied: "Yes but it won't be the last! It's a matter of necessity; that's what you're hired to do. If he was a white boy, it wouldn't have made any difference. All I can say is that I'm sorry it happened. I gave him a chance, all the chance he needed."

Questioned as to whether he fired at Blake's head, the California-born officer, veteran of nearly three years' service, replied no.

Mills' testimony was corroborated by Officer Smith who declared: "I heard him command them to stop. I heard two shots fired."

LONG CRIMINAL RECORD

Another officer, George O. Vincent, attached to the scientific investigation bureau, recited a long list of robberies and burglaries allegedly traced to Blake. The first of these, a San Diego city ordinance violation in 1942, and several others were listed under the name, Ray Reed, Jr., but traced to Blake by fingerprints. Last year Blake was taken into custody by the U. S. marshal, assertedly on draft-evasion charges, but was released.

Molles Goldberg, 338½ N. Gardner, operator of the Slauson blvd. service station assertedly burglarized by the trio shortly before the shooting, testified that he had identified tires booked at University police station in connection with the shooting as those which disappeared from the service station sometime between Dec. 18 and Dec. 20.

BODY SHIPPED TO SAN DIEGO

Blake's body was shipped Friday to San Diego for interment by the Roberts mortuary. Among his surviving relatives are two brothers, San Diego resident Sam Blake and Army private Myles Blake; a sister, Mrs. Sallie Little, 1515¾ E. 33rd st.; and Mrs. Ola Lyons, an aunt of 1339 E. 28th st.

mobile tires on the rear seat.

At the southwest corner of Vernon and Broadway, the police car forced the Ford to the curb, and Blake and Frank Harden Woods, 22, 2663 Long Beach ave., jumped out and ran south on Broadway. Officer Mills, chasing the pair on foot, called "Halt!", he said, and fired a warning shot in the air.

When the pair continued to run, Mills said he fired again, striking Blake in the head and killing him instantly. Woods escaped, but was arrested later at his home.

Blake's second companion, 31-year-old Charlie Lee Phillips, of 973½ E. 47th st., driver of the car, remained in the car and was arrested at the scene. Officers say both he and Woods readily admitted burglary of the service station at 3001 W. Slauson blvd.

Phillips, re-enacting the burglary for the officers, led them to the rest room of the service station where he pointed out four inner tubes left behind by the trio when they made off with 12 tires and four tubes.

At Phillips' home, police found one of the tires and at Woods' home, they found a car radio, four bottles of liquor, a Heat-master car heater, a fog light and a spotlight, all believed stolen.

Youth killed instantly by police bullet

End of tire rationing came too late to save the life of Clyde Blake, 26-year-old laborer and suspected tire thief, of 934 E. 49th pl., latest victim of the current wave of police killings sweeping the community. Blake was slain Thursday morning by University police division patrolman D. E. Mills, white, while trying to escape arrest after robbing a service station at 3001 W. Slauson blvd. He was the third Negro shot to death by police within a month.

According to Mills' story, corroborated by his partner, W. B. Smith, Blake and two companions were seen driving east on Vernon near Figueroa st. in a 1941 Ford sedan early Thursday morning. The officers said they gave chase when they sighted some auto-

43c-19-5

Florida

Fla. CIO Raps Gov. On Lynch Whitewash

Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y. 11-21-45

Special to the Daily Worker

MIAMI, Fla., Nov. 20.—Sharp demands were made today on Gov. Millard F. Cardwell and the FBI for punishment of three alleged lynchers of Sam McFadden, Suwanee County Negro laborer, in resolutions passed by the Florida State Industrial Union Council, CIO.

Similar resolutions demanding indictment and prosecution of the three men—Branford Chief of Police Tom Crews, turpentine operator Lloyd Cribbs, and Army Sergeant James B. Barber — were passed by the Greater Miami Political Action Committee, CIO, and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Club, a civic organization of 450 members in Miami and Miami Beach.

CALDWELL

The Communist Party of Florida announced that its branches in Miami and Jacksonville had distributed thousands of leaflets "demanding of Gov. Caldwell "the immediate conviction of these fascist killers" and asking citizens to write the FBI in Washington urging this federal body "to come to Florida to clean up this Ku Klux Klan lynch mobbery." 11-20-45

The CIO resolutions pointedly accused Gov. Caldwell of "whitewashing" the lynchers of Jesse James Payne, 30-year-old Negro who lived in Madison County, next to Suwanee, and who was killed by a mob on Oct. 1 following the lynching of McFadden on Sept. 21. McFadden's death was not announced, however, until a month after Payne's death.

"We are outraged that we have had a second lynching in such a short span of time," the resolution addressed to Gov. Caldwell declared. "On behalf of our thousands of members, we are making known your previous whitewash of the lynchers of Jesse James Payne."

The resolution, taking cognizance of the fact that the three men had been no-billed last week by a Suwanee County grand jury of landlords and business men, said that "We are well aware of the possibility that any jury selected in this county might not judge the case on its merits and, therefore, might refuse to indict." It asked that the National Federation of Constitutional Liberties institute an investigation looking toward federal action on the two lynchings.

The resolution passed by the Greater Miami PAC linked the lynchings with the recent burning of Klan crosses in the city's Negro district and said that the situation requires that "the unpunished cross burners and lynchers shall be tried for their dastardly crime."

43c-1945 Florida

3RD LYNCHING IN SOUTH IN TWO MONTHS

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. 11-10-45

Florida Police Chief, Rich Turpentine Operator Held

By RICHARD SHANNON

LIVE OAK, Fla., Nov. 9.—The third lynch-murder of a Negro within the past two months in the South was uncovered here today. The brutal slaying came to light as a Florida chief of police and a wealthy turpentine operator were held today for a preliminary hearing in the Suwanee County Circuit today on murder charges. The victim, Sam McFadden, whose age and occupation have not yet been learned, was found floating near an island in the Suwanee River on Oct. 29. His body was swollen and partly decomposed.

Accused of being his killers are Tom Crews, who doubles as chief of police of the town of Branford and as constable of the Fifth Suwanee County District, and Lloyd Cribbs, who is said to operate peonage camps manned by semi-slave Negro workers in the jungle-like pine turpentine belt of the Suwanee bottoms. Suwanee County sheriff W. A. Hunter announced that a third man whom he refused to identify was also implicated in the lynch murder and would probably be returned to Live Oak to face charges.

DAUGHTER OF LYNCH VICTIM IN S. C. NAMES KILLERS
—*See Back Page*

GOVERNOR CALDWELL
Feeling the Pressure

The lynching was not made public until yesterday, when Sheriff Hunter arrested Crews and Cribbs, placing them in jail without bond after an investigation into McFadden's disappearance conducted by W. H. Gasque, special investigator for Gov. Millard F. Caldwell and state attorney A. K. Black. A spokesman for the governor said at Tallahassee yesterday that investigator Gasque was sent to Branford after a confidential source "told us that a Negro had disappeared and indicated that an investigation would turn up some foul play."

KILLED SEPT. 21

Date of McFadden's death was fixed as approximately Sept. 21, which means that 30-year-old Jesse James Payne, taken from the county jail at nearby Madison, Fla., on Oct. 1 and shot to death, was not the first Negro lynch-murder victim of 1945 as was originally believed, but the third.

On the basis of present but incomplete evidence gathered by the known victim was Moses Green, 51-year-old Ellentown, S. C., farmer at first thought to be Singleton.

[Green, as revealed in an exclusive story in today's Daily Worker, was shot to death in his own yard on Sept. 5 by Aiken County sheriff John Stephen with another deputy, Sam Low, being present as an accomplice.]

A thorough investigation undertaken by the Truman administration, which has so far ducked any responsibility for the safety of the South's Negro citizens, might turn up other hidden lynch-murders committed secretly in Divie's thousands of miles of swamps and forests.

LYNCH RING LIKELY

Such an investigation might possibly reveal also the existence of a Southwide lynching involving wealthy white landlords living off the sweat of Negro labor, a number of public officials and leaders of many subversive anti-Negro, anti-Semitic fifth column organizations. These groups have sprung up in Dixie during this early postwar period and operate along the secret, terrorist lines of the reviving Ku Klux Klan. For the past two years, masked storm troopers of the Klan have tried with threats and mob demonstrations called "parades" to stop involved in each of these three Florida Negroes from voting and lynch murders happening in Dixie Fla. from joining labor unions. in a little over three weeks. Police- Sheriff Lonnie Davis of Madison, Fla., obligingly left the jail door Significantly, police officers in men are implicated directly in the for the mob which killed traditional Klan areas have been lynching of Green in South Caro- open

Payne.

NO ACTION ON DAVIS

The same newspaper editions which announced the arrests of officer Crews and turpentine operator Cribbs also announced that Gov. Caldwell had decided not to remove officer Davis from his job as sheriff of Madison County.

Yesterday, also, in Lake City, which is close to both Madison and Branford, Mayor Grady Cochran pleaded guilty to a charge of aggravated assault against three Negroes whom he beat in their homes last July. Originally, the Columbia County Grand Jury had indicted Mayor Cochran on two charges of aggravated assault and one of assault with intent to murder, after he had invaded the Negro homes and violently attacked two men and a woman.

11-10-45

11-16-45

State attorney Black, who is supposed to prosecute the alleged Branford lynchers and who was supposed to prosecute the Madison lynchers, gracefully consented to combine two of the charges against Cochrane, including the one on intent to murder, to one of aggravated assault. The third charge was nolle prossed by Black. Judgment and sentence had not, at this writing, been pronounced on the mayor. The quashed intent-to-murder grew out of the mayor's pistol beating of one of the Negroes.

This is the kind of legal monkey tricks perpetrated on helpless, voteless, overworked and underpaid southern Negroes which can result in only one thing—more lynchings. Unless America speaks up and demands that Florida insure equal protection of the law for all her citizens, the stage will be set at Branford for the same kind of pious farce that was enacted at Madison a few days ago, when a special Grand Jury backed up the "findings" of the regular Grand Jury by being "unable" to identify the lynchers and by completely whitewashing Sheriff Davis, who is said to know everybody in Madison County.

Circuit Judge R. H. Rowe, today presiding over the hearings at Branford, is the same magistrate who impanelled the special Grand Jury at Madison to investigate the lynching of Payne and the responsibility of Sheriff Davis to prevent it. 11-10-45

GOVERNOR'S STAND

Moreover, Gov. Caldwell, in his statement refusing to remove Davis, gave notice in advance that he would not risk political repercussions by throwing out of office "elected" officials who tolerated lynchings.

The statement, which was a masterpiece of Dixie double-talk, admitted that Sheriff Davis had "proven his unfitness" for the office, and said that the governor had served a note of warning upon the officials of Florida that "in the future, particularly in cases of this kind, I expect the highest degree of care to be exercised." Then the statement quoted both the reports of the special Grand Jury and Caldwell's own investigator whitewashing Davis of any guilt.

The governor's opinion as given in the statement was:

"Although Sheriff Davis has in this case proven his unfitness for the office, he was nevertheless the choice of the people of Madison County. Stupidity and ineptitude are not sufficient grounds for the removal of an elected official by the governor."

That isn't much consolation to the families of Sam McFadden and Jesse James Payne. It should be emphasized too, that Negroes do not vote in either Madison or Suwanee counties and therefore have no "choice" in deciding who will be sheriff or who will be governor.

2 Accused Of Lynching Face Fla. Court Today

Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Special to the Daily Worker

LIVE OAK, Fla., Nov. 11.—Further hearings will be held tomorrow for Branford chief of police Tom Crews and Lloyd Cubbs accused of murdering Sam McFadden, Suwanee County Negro.

The men were ordered retained in jail pending the testimony of several Negro witnesses expected to be heard tomorrow by Circuit Judge R. H. Rowe. 11-13-45

Judge Rowe refused to release the men on a writ of habeas corpus filed by their attorneys.

Several hundred people, apparently sympathetic to the two, filled the Suwanee County courthouse where the hearings are being held yesterday. Throughout the day the men were visited by white townspeople.

Florida Lynchers On Rampage; 2 More Killings Reported

By RICHARD SHANNON Special to The Worker

The Worker

LIVE OAK, Fla.—Butter sells for 57 cents a pound in Suwanee County but a human life is worth a slug of buckshot. In fact, human life is cheaper than the tobacco that is grown and the turpentine that is distilled in this country which State Attorney A. K. Black told me was "the tsorngest Klan county in Florida."

N.Y. Mirror

I've just found out that still another Negro—maybe two more—have been slain by lynchers' bullets in addition to Sam McFadden, whose dead body was found floating in the Suwanee River on Oct. 29. 11-18-45

Disregarding evidence presented by Gov. Millard F. Caldwell's own investigator and 20 witnesses, a Suwanee County Grand Jury on Monday refused to indict three men accused of lynching McFadden, Negro World War I veteran.

Those who escaped prosecution are Tom Crews, chief of police of the town of Branford; Lloyd Cribbs, turpentine operator, and Sgt. James E. Barber of Branford.

While still in the county jail, on charges of murdering McFadden, Crews and Cribbs were treated as honored guests with crowds of Suwanee County white landowners and merchants going to their cells to "congratulate" and "comfort" them.

But still stalking the streets of Live Oak is loud-talking, gun-histing Constable "Sonny" Goff who reportedly killed a Negro in September and who has not been brought to trial. In this tight-mouthed secretive town, I have not yet been able to learn the Negro's name but it is a matter of common knowledge.

Florida state authorities also say that McFadden, father of eight small children with his widow due for her ninth confinement in a few weeks, was put to death around September 21.

A few months ago, another, as yet, unidentified Negro mysteriously disappeared and has not been seen since. According to the information, he was employed as porter at the Suwanee Hotel. A white woman guest accused him of "breaking into her room and demanding whiskey." Her husband as I have the story, told the woman that she "wouldn't be bothered with him again." The Negro has not been seen since—the story of his insulting the woman seems to be cut out of the same cloth as all the "rape" yarns used to justify the killing of men because they are black.

"If a n . . . r just wants to get shot, let him get out of line in Suwanee County," Jesse Blackmon, Live Oak real estate man, said to me with a chuckle. "Trouble is that n . . . . rs don't want to farm work any more. Why, we offered a n. . . . r woman a dollar a day to wash for us and she wouldn't take it." 11-18-45

And State Attorney Black, who was supposed to prosecute the lynchers of McFadden also things that lynching isn't such a bad thing on certain occasions.

When I asked him if there had been trouble between whites and Negroes in Suwanee County since V-J Day, he said with a serious expression.

"No, the lynching of that n . . . . r, Jesse James Payne, over in Madison on Oct. 1, had one good effect in that it scared the n . . . . rs here into watching their step."

Of course, the Prosecutor added hastily, "I don't believe that a mob has a right to go out and take the life of any man."

"Take that n . . . .r, Payne. He wasn't accused of rape as the mob claimed and I had him on his way to the chair when they broke in, carried him out and shot him. You can always depend upon the law to take care of a n . . . . r who gets out of place anywhere in the South."

For it is one of the many "glorious traditions of the South" which Bilbo bellows about that a Negro accused of any serious crime is as "good as dead." The "white supremacists" who oppose lynching argue against the "white supremacists" who favor lynching that "the n . . . . r will always get what's comin' to him if he stands up before a jury."

Still unexplained by either Prosecutor Black or Sheriff W. A. Hunter is the motive for the killing of McFadden, who farmed and worked by the day on a little place two miles out of Branford.

State Attorney Black was also vague about any motive for the killing of McFadden. He said that he did not know the lynch victim and had no idea why the accused men should have wanted to kill him.

"It all depends on the intelligence level of people," he said comfortingly. "You and I might have a dispute about something but we wouldn't start shooting each other about it. People on other levels might react differently."

I didn't take that as much of a compliment so I took a different tack.

"Do you think there is any connection between the lynching of Payne in Madison County and the lynching of McFadden in Suwanee County, just across the line?" I inquired.

"Absolutely none," Black replied. "Absolutely none."

"How strong is the Ku Klux Klan in this part of the country," I wanted to know.

"Well," he answered. "I've always heard that Suwanee is the worst Klan county in Florida."

3 Suspects Held

Florida Has 2nd Lynching

The Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

BRANFORD, Fla.— A second Florida lynching was reported this week when three white men, one a soldier, were arrested and held for questioning in connection with the death of Sam McFadden.

McFadden's untimely death will go on the records as the first lynching of the year. Police officers estimate that he was killed around Sept. 21. His body was taken from the Suwannee River four days later. 11-17-45

Previously, the lynching of Jesse Payne, farmhand, had been recorded as the No. 1 lynching. Payne, awaiting trial on charges of molesting a five-year-old white girl, was spirited from the Madison County jail—while the sheriff slept—and taken to the outskirts of town where he was shot to death.

"JUST PLAIN STUPID"

Although action was taken by Governor Caldwell and Atty. Gen. J. Tom Watson to force arrest of the lynchers, the Governor this week was quoted as saying he would not carry out a recommendation of the Attorney General which called for suspension of Lonnie Davis, sheriff of the Madi-

examined the report cov-
Jesse Payne death and
oncluded that the dis-
ccurrence resulted from
d inefficiency of the
not from his abetting or
on." 11-17-45

son County jail. The Governor was quoted as saying: "Sheriff Davis was just plain stupid in allowing Payne to be removed from the jail." He declared that this could not be considered a crime on the part of the sheriff and was not necessarily cause to suspend him.

CONSTABLE HELD AS SUSPECT

The three men held in connection with the lynching of McFadden were ordered several days ago as a result of Governor Caldwell's demand for a complete investigation. Concerning the Jesse Payne lynching, Governor Caldwell said:

43c-1945

Florida Jury Deaf to Lynch Evidence

By RICHARD SHANNON

Daily Worker

LIVE OAK, Fla., Nov. 14.—The Suwanee County Grand Jury that refused to indict three white men accused of murdering Negro World War I veteran Sam McFadden was composed of 18 landowners and businessmen.

The jury returned "no bill" despite the clear testimony of Gov. Millard F. Caldwell's own investigator, W. H. Gasques, and of 20 Negro witnesses. Among the witnesses was the widow, Mrs. Florence McFadden, who is expecting her ninth child.

Lloyd Cribbs, turpentine operator, one of the accused, was released from jail on a motion of State Attorney A. K. Black, two and a half hours after "no bill" was returned.

The other two men accused are Tom Crews, chief of police of the town of Branford and constable of the Fifth Suwanee County District, and Sgt. James B. Barber, said to be stationed at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

11-15-45

STORY OF MURDER

According to the evidence presented to the Grand Jury by Gasques, McFadden left his home, two miles from Branford, to buy groceries for his family. He was spotted by Crews and Sgt. Barber, who then hailed Cribbs. Crews told Cribbs he needed his help in "arresting a bad n----r," and was impressing him into service as a citizen to help in the arrest.

The three men hailed McFadden as he was coming out of the grocery store, put him in a car and drove him out of town in the direction of the Suwanee River. On Oct. 29 McFadden's body was found floating near an island by two fishermen, Wesley O'Neal and Barney Herino.

New York

McFadden was identified by a social security card in his pocket.

The Negro witnesses during the Grand Jury hearing sat huddled in the courthouse room saying nothing to whites and talking only in low undertones among themselves.

Before the grand jury convened for its opening session to hear Gasque shortly before noon yesterday, Judge Rowe stepped from his bench, went to the attorney's table, and made a 20-minute plea for the jury to render "justice without prejudice or bias."

"How can you have one yardstick of justice for white men and another for black men," the gray-haired jurist, told the crowded courtroom.

"The law requires us to give justice to white and Negro, to rich and poor alike."

"An officer is no better a man than he was at the time when he was elected. If an officer oversteps his bounds, he should be called to account for it.

"Generally, we find when some major crime is committed, that selfish property interests are involved."

The grand jury listened to the evidence of special agent Gasque for about an hour and, it is reported, to the Negro witnesses for a few minutes each.

Charge Legal Lynching In Cop Killing

Amsterdam News
N.Y., N.Y.

VALDOSTA, Ga. (ANP)—The fatal shooting Monday of 23-year-old Gill Jones by police officers here Monday was being desecribed by local observers as another in the many "legal lynchings" which seldom come to the attention of the public. 4-7-45

Jones, who was employed as a dishwasher in a local restaurant, had been the target for a widespread search all day Sunday and Sunday night after he had been identified as the man who entered the bedroom of two young white girls early Sunday morning.

State troopers, city police, military police from Moody field and more than 100 members of the state home guard combined their resources, using bloodhounds, horses and radio cars to terrorize the Negro districts and surrounding communities in their frantic search. 4-7-45

When Jones' body was found in a clump of woods bordering Valdosta, it was riddled with slugs of various calibres.

Valdosta's Police Chief, H. M. Tassmore, however, claimed that Jones was shot only by Officer T. W. Alderman, after he had attempted to grab the policeman's pistol and escape. Alderman, the chief said, emptied his gun into Jones' body. No explanation was made of the fact that slugs other than those of the .38 calibre weapon belonging to Alderman were in the suspect's body.

No coroner's inquest will be held, it was announced.

Army Probes Killing Of Benning Soldier

The Atlanta Daily World-Atlanta, Ga.
11-4-45

COLUMBUS, Ga.—(ANP)— Military authorities at Fort Benning have launched an investigation into death of an unknown soldier who was shot by local police officers here Saturday following a foot ball game between Tuskegee and Morehouse college.

According to approximately 70 eye witnesses, the soldier, stationed at Fort Benning, volunteered his services to untangle traffic lines after the game in the absence of traffic officers. The soldier, reportedly a former MP, had nearly straightened out the traffic when

MASS ATTACK

An argument between them and the soldier followed during which the Negro GI hit one of them. He was immediately attacked by the whole group of police officers, witnesses report. Two of them held his arms while a third shot him through the back.

Aviation Cadet Richard King, an overseas veteran and currently assigned to the primary school at Tuskegee Army Air field, was slapped in the face by one of the officers, presumably because he had been seen talking with the Fort Benning soldier. King was one of a number of a large group of cadets who were waiting at the gate to board army vehicles to return to Tuskegee.

According to the cadets, no names were taken for witnesses of the happening and no questions were asked.

Killing of GI at Grid Game Probed by Army

People's Voice N.Y.

COLUMBUS, Ga (ANP)—As a result of the fatal shooting of Pvt. Lester Wiggins, Ft. Benning soldier who was shot by a white policeman at a Columbus football game Oct. 26, investigation of the occurrance was started this week. Ft. Benning authorities questioned several primary cadets at Tuskegee Army Air field who were eyewitnesses to the shooting.

According to the statement of a cadet made to 2nd Lt. Cecil F. Poole, assistant trial judge advocate at TAAF, the following is what happened: 11-17-45

"On Friday, Oct. 26, I was with a group of aviation cadets in Columbus. We had come from TAAF to attend a football game and were waiting for a bus to return to Tuskegee. Traffic was congested after the game and a soldier stood in the street to direct it.

"As we were standing there a policeman came up and ordered him to get off the street, using the words, 'Nigger, get the hell out of the street,' or words to that effect.

"The soldier came over to our group and made some remarks to the effect that he (the soldier), could do a better job directing traffic. The policeman came over and struck the soldier with a blackjack. The soldier grabbed the blackjack and struck back.

"There was a short suffle and the policeman pulled out his gun, but the soldier grabbed his gun hand and the shot went wild. About five other policemen came up and began hitting the soldier with blackjacks, fists, and flashlight.

"They pinned his arms and the soldier staggered. Although the policeman had definitely subdued the soldier one of them came around to the rear and shot the soldier in the back. The soldier collapsed and fell and then another policeman struck him on the head as he lay on the ground.

"The group of cadets began moving forward but the policeman pointed their guns at us and ordered us to stand fast. One of them stated, 'I have shot one nigger and I don't want to have to kill another.' We had to stand there until the bus came and the policemen let us go. The soldier was still lying there on the ground without having received medical attention when we pulled away." 11-17-45

Pvt. Wiggins, a native of Detroit, died two days before he was to have been discharged from the army.

43c-1945

Illinois

Gets Eyidence On Police Brutality

The Savannah Tribune
Savannah Ga.

Springfield, Ill. (ANP) — Jim crow and police brutality are a reality here in Springfield, last resting place of Abraham Lincoln and state capital.

An investigation by the Chicago Civil Liberties committee revealed that there are no Negro school teachers here, that Negro citizens must accept a jim crow bathing beach, and that drug stores, restaurants and taverns operated by whites bar Negroes even in Negro districts. Poolrooms carry milk in their ice-boxes, the committee report said, because "the children who frequent them are that young." 10-25-45

A Negro mother was told by a white doctor in a public clinic:

"I will not attend a Negro baby. If I had to prescribe for her, it would be arsenic."

With that setting, the committee representative, Graton Little, who had answered an urgent request by the junior branch of the local NAACP and other indignant citizens, investigated three police brutality cases. The principals were Mrs. Willie Bradley, a 64-year-old widow of a World War I veteran; her daughter, Miss Anna Bee Bradley, a war plant worker of East St. Louis, Ill., and Kenneth Sugg, a friend of Mrs. Bradley.

All three were arrested following an alleged altercation between Mrs. Bradley and Miss Ruth Venable. Police made the arrest on Sept. 21 by breaking into the home of Mrs. Bradley without a warrant, the affidavit disclosed. The 64-year-old woman was knocked unconscious by the turnkey, the committee reports, and was hospitalized at the St. John hospital. She sustained two broken ribs, she claims. 10-25-45

Sugg declares that he was arrested twice, placed under two bonds of $1,000 and $5,000, which cost him $60. He paid the money to Nathan Strom, a professional bondsman here, he charges. The daughter, Miss Bradley, was held 10 days in jail on a vagrancy charge.

All three report police intimidation and threats by Judge Conway to run them out of town. The arrests were made by six policemen, of them a Negro, Officer Joe Hughes, the Committee's reports disclosed.

43c-1945

Kentucky

Court Exonerates Policeman In Slaying of Deaf-Mute Here

Courier-Journal Ky. Louisville

8-23-45

A manslaughter charge against Patrolman Dillard Chism, held in the death of Wiliam Henry Johnson, Negro deaf-mute, was dismissed yesterday by Police Court Judge John B. Brachey.

It was established in a statement by Chism following the shooting and read in court yesterday that Chism and not his partner, Patrolman William Bertholf, shot Johnson when Johnson fled from the policemen July 18 near Trevillian Way and Lakeside Drive. A coroner's court had decided that either Chism or Bertholf "acted in the line of duty" in shooting Johnson, who the policemen were attempting to arrest on an exposure charge.

C. Eubank Tucker, Negro attorney, asked that the case be held to the grand jury "because no officer has a right to shoot a fleeing person unless the person has committed a felony, and exposure of person is not a felony."

According to Chism's statement, Johnson "put his hand on his hip" during the flight. Chism said he heard a shot fired after he had taken a different route than Bertholf in the chase "and I thought he might have shot Bertholf."

4?c-1945

Mississippi

Free and Equal

Tom Jones, twenty-four-year-old Negro, was fatally wounded on Saturday evening by the Town Marshal of Woodville, Mississippi.... new York New Republic

The Negro was aboard a Greyhound bus from New Orleans, Louisiana. Upon arrival at Woodville the Negro started an argument with the bus driver over the whereabouts of his baggage. The argument became heated and the bus driver went and secured the Town Marshal who, according to Mayor Stockett, upon arriving at the scene found the condition such as made it necessary to shoot the Negro.—*From the Natchez* Democrat. 11-5-45 N.Y., N.Y.

43c-1945 Mississippi

Alabama Negro Suspect Shot By Mississippian

Montgomery Advertiser

MERIDIAN, MISS., Sept. 24—(AP)—A one-armed Alabama negro who wounded Deputy Sheriff A. B. Ruffin of Meridian was shot and killed yesterday by a state highway patrolman.

Commissioner of Public Safety C. R. Bradley said at Jackson that Myrtis Welch shot Ruffin when the offiier sought to question him about the killing of a Whynot, Miss., negro early Sunday. Ruffin wounded Welch, who fled.

9-26-45

Later Bradley said, Highway Patrolman C. W. Pitts fatally wounded Welch when the negro sought to resist officers who found him at a filling station at Lisman, Ala.

Advertiser

Ruffin, wounded in the side, was improving today.

Negro Vet Murdered; Slayer Shielded at Atlanta Inquest

Daily Worker 6-7-45

ATLANTA, June 6.—An honorably discharged 22-year-old Negro war veteran, was shot to death here by police and a civilian as he drove an older man to meet a white woman at a rendezvous the white pair had made by telephone.

The victim of the shooting was Denice Harris. He was driving Charles Jones to meet the woman, at Jones' request. Apparently the telephone conversation had been overheard by the woman's husband, who is said to have been supplied with a gun by the police chief of College Park, where the shooting occurred.

A coroner's inquest established the fact that the Negro war vet was killed by bullets from a police pistol. His death, ironically, was dubbed "justifiable homicide" in strict keeping with Georgia's double standard of justice where whites and Negroes are concerned.

Testimony brought out that Jones had talked Harris into driving him to meet the woman. Jones escaped the hail of bullets by dropping to the ground. He was arrested and is being held in Fulton County jail for Grand Jury action.

Mrs. Catherine Harris, attractive young widow of the murdered man, has engaged counsel to prosecute her husband's killers.

At the very moment the Fulton County coroner's jury was rendering its verdict, a petit jury in DeKalb County was acquitting Ralph New, Ralph Goza and Harold Morgan, white, charged with kidnaping and raping a 17-year-old Negro high school girl last Christman eve. The all-white jury voted exoneration despite the unshakable testimny of the girl and the barrage of nationwide appeals for justice on her behalf.

The Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, 112 E. 19 St., New York, organized to fight for indictment of the rapists of the young Abbeville, Ala., wife and mother, also led the campaign for prosecution of the Georgia rapists.

The 17-year-old girl and her 18-year-old high school escort were driving from church on Christmas eve when the three white men halted them. The girl was forced into another car and driven to a shack in a neighboring county, where she was raped. 6-7-45

She was ill in the hospital for two weeks.

Bullet Wound Is Fatal To Student

Richmond Times 5-13-45

George D. Garrett, Negro, 17, of Greenville, N. C., a student at Virginia Union University, was killed instantly about 2:30 A. M. yesterday by James H. Daniels, 64, a railroad detective, who said he shot Garrett when he and a Negro companion tried to hold him up. 5-13-45

Mr. Daniels, who lives in the 1200 block South Allen Ave., and who has been employed by the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railway Company for the past 23 years, said he was walking in the 1600 block West Broad St. after eating in a nearby restaurant when Garrett and Robert Martin, 18, another student at the same college, attempted to hold him up.

Mr. Daniels said the youths approached him and that Garrett asked for a match, then shoved a .32 caliber revolver in his side and told him to put up his hands, according to Detective-Sergeant R. L. Beasley. Captain Garton, head of the Detective Bureau, quoted Mr. Daniels as saying he was on duty and had a .38 caliber revolver in a holster on his belt and that he immediately drew it and shot Garrett in the left side of the neck. The bullet severed the jugular vein and went through Garrett's neck, emerging through his ear.

Police Quote Daniels

Sergeant Beasley quoted Mr. Daniels as saying he had observed the two youths and had stopped at the curb as they approached him. He said Mr. Daniels told him he said to the boys, "What do you think you are doing?" That was when Garrett stuck the gun in his side, Sergeant Beasley quoted Mr. Daniels as saying.

Captain Garton said that when an ambulance arrived, Garrett still had the pistol in his hand. He said Mr. Daniels told him he ordered Martin to remain at the scene when Martin started to leave. 5-13-45

Mr. Daniels was released under $1,500 bail on a murder charge and Martin was freed on $1,000 bail posted by Dr. J. M. Ellison, president of the Virginia Union University. Martin was booked on a robbery charge. Btoh bonds were made returnable in Police Court May 22.

Captain Garton said Mr. Daniels was on duty at the time of the shooting.

Police Mob Slays Georgia Prisoner

AFRO-American 6-23-45

COLQUITT, Ga. (ANP)—Charlie L. Price, 20, was shot death here Saturday by a mob of hastily sworn in deputies after his arrest as a suspect in the fatal clubbing of Mrs. Mae Gorman, 50, white.

Price, according to Sheriff W. S. Tabb, was being transported to jail when he attempted to leap out of the officer's car, only to be met with a hail of bullets from the pistols of more than a dozen "special" deputies. 6-23-45

The shooting, colored leaders here observed, bore all of the earmarks of another "legal lynching."

Youth Phones White Woman, Killed; Three Whites Rape Negro Girl, Freed

Chicago Defender 6-2-45

ATLANTA—(ANP)—A clear-cut illustration of the double-standard of justice prevailing in the South was given last week when an honorably discharged World War II veteran paid with his life for calling a white woman on the telephone, while three white youths, who abducted a 17-year-old Negro girl and raped her several times, were given their freedom.

The killing of 22-year-old Denice Harris, who was released from the army in April bore all the earmarks of an "official lynching," observers here pointed out. Harris body was riddled with bullets when he drove to nearby College Park to a police-inspired rendezvous with a white woman.

The fatal slug, testimony at the coroner's inquest disclosed, came from a city-owned shotgun given the woman's husband by College Park's Police Chief R. W. Moore. The other slugs were fired by four police officers from ambush.

The coroner's jury after a five-minute deliberation held that Harris' death was justifiable homicide.

Free Rapists

At the same time the coroner's jury was rendering its verdict in the Fulton county courthouse, a petit jury in nearby DeKalb county courthouse was returning an acquittal verdict in the cases of Ralph New, Ralph Goza and Seaman Harold Morgan, all white, charged with the Christmas eve criminal attacks on a comely 17-year-old colored high school student.

The verdict was voted by the all-white jury, despite the unshakeable testimony of the girl, who described how she and her 18-year-old boy friend were returning from church when the three whites approached and after severely beating her companion, Walter Berry Jr., forced her to accompany them to an abandoned shack in the woods of neighboring Gwinett county.

The girl said she was kept in the cabin for more than six hours and that the trio had taken turns attacking her. Weakened and her clothing torn, the girl was found the next morning by a passing motorist staggering down the highway. She was carried to the hospital where she remained for more than two weeks. 6-2-45

Shoot Wrong Man

Adding an ironic twist to the Harris case was the later development that the slain man actually was not the person who had been calling the white woman, but was merely carrying another man to the trysting place. The other man, Charles Jones, who, testimony showed, had begged Harris to carry him to the lonely College Park road, had been annoying the woman over the telephone.

Jones escaped the barrage of bullets laid down by the husband and officers, by falling to the ground and rolling into a ditch. He was later arrested at his Atlanta residence and is being held in Fulton county jail awaiting grand jury action.

Mrs. Catherine Harris, attractive widow of the slain man, told newsmen that she has already engaged counsel, and plans to sue the white husband, Edward Greer, the four police officers, Chief Moore, Earl Peppers, Charles Wheeler and W. L. Creel, in the unprovoked murder of her mate.

5th Fatal Beating Laid to Ga. Police

Afro-American 6-9-45

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Daniel Hicks, beaten to death by four police officers May 18, his hands and feet then tied with rope and his body thrown into jail, was the fifth man beaten fatally by Georgia police in the last few weeks.

Hicks, whose body was still trussed up with the rope when an undertaker called for it at the jail, was the third victim of fatal police beatings in this city. Unarmed, he was accused of resisting arrest on charges of attempted attack on a white woman. 6-9-45

The officers were acquitted by the police court justice who ruled that the killing was justifiable homicide because Hicks "was resisting arrest" at the time. Similar action by the courts resulted after the other slayings, according to the Savannah Better Citizens' Club.

Officers Probe Slaying of GI at Indiantown Gap

HARRISBURG, Pa.—A thorough investigation into the fatal shooting of a soldier during a disturbance at the Indiantown Gap Military Reservation on Sunday is being conducted by a special board of inquiry, it was revealed on Tuesday.

The victim, Pvt. George W. Harrell, 19, of Cairo, Ill., a member of the 4517th Quartermaster Service Company, died Sunday at 9:30 p.m., in the station hospital.

Guards Called by MP's

The shooting occurred in the Service Center on Sunday afternoon when members of a colored guard unit were called by the military police to help quell a disturbance which broke out among the men.

In order to prevent a serious riot, the guards fired, fatally wounding Pvt. Harrell. Training center officers later dispersed the crowd and closed the center for the night.

Major Shulmann, of the Public Relations Bureau, Indiantown Gap, stated that it has not yet been determined whether Pvt. Harrell participated in the disorder.

The special board investigating the case is headed by Col. Raymond E. Vermette, commanding officer at the center. Other officers on the board are Maj. Dwight E. Ogier, Capt. George A. Kappus, First Lt. Bob Calloway and Second Lt. Samuel Patterson.

Victim Attacked By Cashier Upon Leaving Restaurant

Ross Howard, 23-year-old Negro and ex-soldier, 214 Florida street, is dead from pistol wounds he received early two Sunday afternoons ago in a North Bay street grill when he walked in and asked for a sandwich.

The proprietor of Mayfair Grill, William (Bill' Duncan, Jr., middle-aged, at whose restaurant the shooting occurred, told Homicide Officer Carl Bunch that Howard and a 15-year-old youth entered the cafe and asked for a sandwich but was informed that he had to go to the back if he cared to be served. The victim and his brother-in-law, Raymond Harrison, moved on to the kitchen where they hoped to have been served—but instead they were ordered out of the "damn way" by the white dishwasher. Howard and Harrison, using the same entrance to leave the restaurant as they did to enter were overheard to have made the remarks that "we don't have to buy sandwiches from your old cafe."

A witness to the shooting told a reporter for the Knoxville Monitor that Mrs. Duncan, wife and cashier of the murderer, threwa a bottle and struck Howard back of the head and then Duncan (who was sitting in a booth eating) pulled a pistol from his belt and shot Howard in the left shoulder.

"The bullet from the revolver entered the victim's throat, breaking his neck," according to an investigating officer.

Mrs. Carl Bunch, homicide officer, said the wounded man and his young brother-in-law then ran from the grill and Howard dropped in a doorway just around the corner from the scene of the shooting. The ex-soldier of this war was pronounced dead upon arrival at Knox-General Hospital.

Duncan, who ran for sheriff in the last county election and received 15 votes, was figured in an incident some months ago in which he forced a customer to eat a steak (about which the customer complained) at the point of a pistol. After the customer ate the steak he was forced to pay for it.

A similar incident occurred at the Duncan's Market street cigar store when he forced a customer to purchase a pipe after it had been placed into the customer's mouth.

Ross was a private in the present war and he served nine months in the States, acording to his States, according to his young wife, Mary Louise Harrison-Haward. He was discharged in October of 1943.

"Wrong Man" Killed In Harris Case, Inquest Evidence Shows

Atlanta World 5-18-45

"Skin" Harris Innocent Victim Of Chain Of Circumstances

Atlanta World 5-18-45

INNOCENT VICTIM? — Donice "Skin" Harris, widely known westside sportsman and World War II veteran, whose body was riddled by bullets fired by two College Park policemen and Edward Greer, angered white husband, in a plain case of getting the wrong man. Testimony at a coroner's inquest Thursday disclosed that Charles Johnson of 207 Maple street, now under arrest was the man whom police accuse of having molested Greer's wife by telephone.

BY CLIFF MACKAY

The life of Donice "Skin" Harris, westside sportsman and World War II veteran, was snuffed out Friday night by a hail of bullets fired from ambush by two College Park policemen and an angered husband given a shotgun by College Park Police Chief R. W. Moore, a coroner's jury decided late Thursday afternoon following an exhaustive injury into the chain of circumstances that ended fatally for the wrong man. 5-18-45

Though all evidence pointed unswervingly to the fact that Harris' riding companion on the fatal trip, Charles Johnson, was actually the offender in a series of improper advances made to Mrs. Edward Greer, white, over the telephone, the jury nevertheless ruled that the shooting of Harris was a "justifiable homicide." 5-18-45

NAMED GUNMEN

Named in the verdict as the man who actually fired the slugs into Harris' body were College Park Policemen Earl E. Peppers and Charles Wheeler and Edward Greer, husband of the woman testimony disclosed had been annoyed by Charles Johnson.

The verdict was reached after five hours of taking testimony under the direction of Fulton county's coroner, Mrs. Paul E. Donehoo. The inquiry was held in the coroner's office in the Fulton county courthouse.

The chain of events leading up to the unofficial execution of Harris on lonely East Mercer Street on the dreary night of May 11 started, testimony revealed, on April 25 when Charles Johnson, acting as chauffeur for John L. Moyer of the War Food Administration visited the Hull-Dobbs Company where Mrs. Greer is employed as manager.

CALLS BEGIN

Moyer, called to the stand told how he and Johnson went to Mrs. Greer's place on that date and Johnson was seen to secure the telephone number from one of the Negro girl employes.

On May 2, Mrs. Greer, testified, a series of telephone calls began. A man, she said, who claimed to have known her in Chicago began begging her over the telephone for a date. The first indication that the caller was colored, she said, was on the third call when he ended his conversation by asking, "You don't mind the color, do you?"

The woman said she became so frightened she appealed to Chief Moore for protection and it was at his suggestion that she consented to make a date with the caller, so that he could be identified.

MEN DRIVE AWAY 5-18-45

The first date was made, it was disclosed on Thursday night, May 10 at Ashby and West Fair streets. Two Atlanta detectives, Ellington and Peck were detailed to trail behind the panel company truck Mrs. Greer was driving to make the arrest.

But the large automobile in which the caller was suspected to have been riding was driven hurriedly off after it had been parked behind the truck, when two soldiers stopped behind it. The officers said they were never able to obtain a view of the occupants.

The next morning, the fatal Friday, Mrs. Greer said she received another call shortly before noon. Chief Moore happened to be in her office at the time and again suggested that she make a date, this time in College Park on East Mercer street.

Mrs. Greer agreed to meet the caller at nine o'clock on the darkened College Park street after she had been given assurance that ample police protection would be afforded her.

JOHNSON CRUISES BY

Friday afternoon about four o'clock, according to Chief Moore, Johnson was seen cruising by Mrs. Greer's office in a government coupe, slowing down and looking back. 5-18-45

Harris was brought into the affair, testimony of several witnesses, revealed, when Johnson began a search of the westside for the ex-soldier, who formerly starred on famous Fort Benning Reception Center football team.

Johnson, according to Heustell Harris, brother of the victim, approached him and asked where he could find "Skin." Told he was upstairs over Williams Tavern, Johnson, another witness, Robert Lee Murray, known as "Buttermilk" testified, came up and kept urging Harris to come on or he would be late. This was about 8:30 o'clock.

POLICE CONCEAL SELVES

Meanwhile four College Park policemen, accompanied by Mr. Greer and all armed, had concealed themselves near the spot where Mrs. Greer was to drive her company truck for the rendezvous.

Mrs. Greer drove up, she testified, and parked on the wrong side of the street, leaving the parking lights burning. A minute or two before nine the large automobile containing Harris and Johnson drove up, passed slowly by the truck and two short taps on the horn were sounded. The car passed on, circled around and came back to stop beside the truck.

The dome light of the car came on briefly when Johnson got out. Harris, testimony disclosed, never did leave the car, but had slid over from beneath the steering wheel. Just as Johnson aproached the truck, three voices of the ambushed policemen and husband, the woman testified, shouted, "Halt."

FALLS INTO DITCH

Harris, she said, slid back behind the steering wheel of the car, as if to drive off and Johnson dropped rolling beneath the truck and into a ditch by the side of the road.

The policemen and the husband opened fire, mortally wounding the innocent victim of circumstances, Harris. Testimony of Dr. J. C. Blalock, county physician, disclosed that a large number of slugs had penetrated Harris' body, but the fatal pellet which pierced his lung, causing hemorrhage came from the shotgun. 5-18-45

Officer Earl E. Peppers, one of the two policemen, who laid down the bullet barrage in reply to Mrs. Donehoo's questioning, admitted that he had fired his .38 calibre police special "about four times." He joined the force on January 19. this year.

FIRED THREE TIMES

Officer Charles Wheeler, who said he had been a policeman about two years, said he fired "two or three times" with his police pistol. Greer, who testified that he [illegible] son sought to lay the blame on Harris. 5-18-45

TRIES TO BLAME HARRIS

He claimed he was en route home when Harris offered to carry him in his car and that before he knew it they were in College Park. Admitting that he had been in Mrs. Greer's place on April 25, Johnson, who is now under arrest awaiting grand jury action, said that he had obtained the telephone number from one of the colored girl employes, but denied that he had ever called Mrs. Greer.

He said that they passed Mrs. Greer's truck and seeing the lights still burning, decided at Harris' suggestion to turn around and see if the occupant was in trouble after seeing somebody inside wave as they passed.

Just as they drove up, he said, the gunfire opened up. He slid from the car and crawling beneath escaped from the back and started running, reaching home about one o'clock. 5-18-45

NEGROES HELP FIND JOHNSON

College Park Officer W. L. Creel, who said he was present at the ambush, but did not shoot, described how he with two Fulton county policemen, with the assistance of Harris' brothers trailed Johnson to his residence, finding him sitting up in bed. He was told to dress and first carried to the College Park jail, but fearing for his safekeeping, policemen transferred him to the Fulton county jail.

Johnson, nattily attired in a pin stripe gray suit, a clean shirt, though no tie, sat through the hearing with little expression on his face. A soft smile creased his features on two occasions during Mrs. Greer's testimony as she told of the annoyance that an unknown caller was causing her.

Mrs. Catherine Harris, widow of the slain man and Joseph Harris, his father, along with this reporter, were the only Negroes allowed in the room during the hearing. An all-white jury, which included Captain Henry Butler, a retired Atlanta police officer, rendered the verdict.

ANOTHER GIRL TESTIFIES

The only stir in the otherwise smooth proceedings was when a young white girl, Lucile Sissons, was called to the stand and testified that Johnson had approached her at the time both were employed at the Candler warehouse. She reported the matter to some guards, she said, and Johnson was discharged.

The jury reached its verdict after fifteen minutes' of deliberation.

Atlanta Constitution 5-18-45

A Negro who had been trying to "make a date" with a white woman over the telephone was shot and killed recently. The Negro, Donice Harris, who had a police record for lottery and perjury, called the white woman by phone in an attempt to get her to meet him. She and her husband reported the call to the College Park police and were told to agree to meet the Negro. When the Negro arrived for his date with the woman, the College Park police were concealed near by. They closed in and the Negra ran. He fell from "multiple bullet" wounds in the head and chest from two revolvers and a shotgun. Another Negro, Charlie Johnson, who was with Harris, did not run and is being held for investigation.

Hold-Up Attempt Fails, Union Student Killed

RICHMOND, Va. — A 17 year-old sophomore studen of Virginia Union University met instant death when he failed, according to investigating officers, in a hold up attempt early Saturday morning in the 1600 block West Broad street. George D. Garrett, the victim, was shot by J. A. Daniels, white, 64-year-old railroad detective. The shooting occurred at 2:30 a. m.

Garrett, a native of Greenville, N. C., had been at Union only two years. According to reports of the shooting, Garrett was accompanied by Robert Martin, 18-year old sophomore from Roanoke, Va., who is accused of robbery.

The two students had left a restaurant and were on their way to the Broad street station to secure information on train schedules, according to Martin's statement.

Officer Daniels is under $1,500 bond on a murder charge. Young Martin, who was locked up after the shooting, was released on a $1,000 bond posted by Dr. J. M. Ellison, president of Virginia Union University.

The railroad officer, who is employed by the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, told police that he was walking East on Broad street when he noticed the two youths approaching, and he stopped on the curb to observe their actions.

As the pair approached Daniels, it was reported that Garnett asked for a match, then shoved a .32 caliber revolver in his side and ordered him to put his hands up.

FIRED INTO VICTIM'S NECK

Captain Garton, head of the Detective Bureau, quoted Officer Daniels as saying he was on duty and had a .32 caliber revolver in the holster on his belt. The latter is reported to have said, "What do you think you are doing?" and then drew his gun and fired point blank into the left side of the victim's neck. The bullet severed the jugular vein and went through Garrett's neck emerging through the left ear.

Garrett was reported to be an average student on the campus, but at the time had violated one of the regulations at the school which called for suspension.

Martin reported that just before the shooting he had given Garrett a cigarette when he dropped his, and on stopping to pick it up, he turned and noticed that Garrett was holding a man up at the point of a gun. Before he could do anything, he said, the man had fired on Garrett. Then he said Daniels turned on him and said "I ought to shoot you, too."

HELD AT POINT OF GUN

Martin said he was held at the point of a gun, and that he offered to give some assistance, but that Daniels refused to let him help.

Martin was held at the scene until the ambulance arrived. When searched police found a knife in his possession. He was released on bond Sunday morning. Both he and Daniels will be given police court hearings on May 22.

Probe, Mississippi Gestapo in Beating

JACKSON, Miss. — (ANP) — A speedy investigation was being conducted here early this week by city and military officials following the beating of one wounded soldier and the intimidation of others by two white policemen Sunday.

The soldiers were inmates of the Foster General hospital.

Witnesses said the policemen parked their car in the heart of the Negro business section, North Farish street, and began stopping, questioning, abusing and beating Negro men and women, with absolutely no incident or occurrence necessitating such harsh police action.

According to reports, while one of the officers would stop and abuse a person, the other stood by with his hand on his pistol ready to carry out a further demonstration of unwarranted abuse of police power. A number of women were beaten and among the men, at least two were beaten severely, although efforts to obtain their identity were unsuccessful.

Pvt. Richard Hill, a wounded veteran recently returned from action with Gen. Patton's Third army, who only a few days before had been relieved of crutches, is reported to have been brutally baten, while several other soldiers on crutches were abused and intimidated when attempts were being made to make them "run" down the streets. Hill was still walking with a cane.

According to reports, the policemn were the same who took a crowd of youths, including a navy veteran, to the woods and beat them up two weeks ago.

Mayor Leland Speed, told of the incident, immediately assigned Detective Captain Jesse Wall to conduct a thorough probe and assured the committee of incensed businessmen that such abuse of authority on the part of policemen would not be tolerated under his administration.

Crossed-Eyed Justice

From The Atlanta Daily World)

The great maze of testimony uncovered by the coroner's jury here last Thursday in connection with the slaying of Donice Harris, who a week ago was ambushed by two College Park policemen together with an angered husband, is in sharp conflict with common sense and highly incredible, even to the mind of an average school child.

To begin with, it should be plain to all that there was no charge lodged against the individual, it was merely a complaint, unsupported by any known or proven facts. Even were the facts, true, it could only be listed as a misdemeanor. So that, granting that if we could believe Harris undertook to escape justice, it would still be contrary to law to shoot a man in order to keep him from escaping. In another more important sense, the policemen not only violated the law but encouraged violence by arming a civilian with a gun in order that he might do violence to another. Worse even than that, the officials admitted getting the wrong man.

It is worse than silly to contend as they are now doing, that the reason why Harris was killed and Johnson was not was because Harris attempted to escape. It was Johnson, who according to all the known facts, attempted and did escape. Harris remained under the steering wheel and was killed.

Police officials, who have no higher conception of their sworn duty to uphold the law than by arming others, are sorry irresponsible men who themselves are a threat to the safety of the populace. The whole chain of events surrounding the slaying fail to lend themselves to reasonable interpretation.

PROBE ORDERED INTO OREGON POLICE SLAYING

PORTLAND, O. — (ANP) — A probe has been ordered into the police slaying of Ervin Jones, a father of five children, here recently.

Jones was shot to death while standing in a well-lighted room after he refused to admit police officers. Prior to death, the victim, who was shot at a distance of about 12 feet, stated he refused to open the door because he thought the officers were robbers.

AID HIS WIDOW

A number of local civic, labor and church organizations have come to the aid of his widow when it was revealed that she was financially unable to bury her husband or to escort his remains to Shreveport, La., his native state. Funds for the family are being solicited through a committee headed by the Rev. George W. Brown, pastor of Gona Street Community church.

The district attorney has ordered an investigation of the fatal police shooting through a coroner's inquest, which might set aside a former coroner's verdict that the slaying was justifiable homicide.

At the next inquest, Mrs. Jones will be assisted by the NAACP's legal committee and a score of other organizations. The victim is survived by five children between the ages of two and 11 years.

Soldier Killed At Camp Lee, Va. In Altercation With Two MP's

PETERSBURG, Va. — (ANP) —A brawl between military policemen and a group of soldiers from Camp Lee, Saturday, resulted in the death of one soldier, Pvt. Thomas Reed, 25, of New York, while the two MPs were severely cut.

According to reports, Reed and a soldier companion, both of whom had been drinking, were picked up by the MPs, and charged with disorderly conduct. Reed, officers said, was shot by a Petersburg civilian patrolman when he failed to halt a knife attack on two MPs.

The altercation between the soldiers and police officers resulted in the death of Reed; a slash about the thigh of Sgt. Purvis S. Box, Washington, while Pfc. Howare W. Best, Greenville, Ohio, suffered lacerations when his eye glasses wer smashed into his face by Reed's companion, who fled during the row.

According to public relations officers, both Box and Best lost a deal of blood and were accounted seriously wounded, though they will, no doubt recover, at the army service forces regional hospital at Camp Lee.

Lee was reported shot first through the leg and then in the heart, by the civilian patrolman,

43c-1945

Killings- Negroes by Police Officers

12-Year-Old Boy Shot By Cop Lies Near Death

As 12-year-old Leonard Jones of 25 E 125 st lies near death under an oxygen tent in Flower Hospital from two wounds left by a quick-shooting policeman's bullets, an investigation under way by PV discloses facts that sharply contradict the story handed out by the police to the New York dailies last week, suggesting instead a flagrant misuse of police discretion.

Nothing but sheer, wanton police brutality can explain the fact that a little 12-year-old Negro boy lies fighting for his life, with two bullet holes through his body. This is the inescapable conclusion reached from PV's investigation of last week's shooting of Leonard Jones by Police Officer Abraham Prince.—Editors.

According to accounts of the incident published by the daily papers last Tuesday, the police were brought to 16 W 111th st by screams of Mrs. Marie Costa who had been threatened with stabbing when she interrupted two boys robbing her apartment. It was stated that the Jones boy was shot in the back and in the shoulder as he was scaling a fence in the yard back of the apartment house.

PV's investigation reveals:

- Mrs. Costa was never robbed, was not threatened with a knife, and did not scream for the police.
- Leonard Jones was in the hands of the police before he sought to escape over the back fence, and therefore the officers must have known that he was an unarmed child.

NO WITNESSES

Mrs. Costa, who is the superintendant of 16 W 111 st and who occupies an apartment on the first floor, says she has never seen Leonard Jones nor his 12-year-old companion. She confirms that a robbery had been committed on the top floor in apartment 54. The occupant of apartment 54, Mrs. Romona Senata, was not at home when the robbery was committed. The police were called by telephone by people on 110 st who saw someone entering the rear of apartment 54 from the fire escape.

Two older and bigger boys were driven away from Mrs. Costa's door when they burst in claiming they were running from boys in the street. Mrs. Costa's description of these youths did not meet the description of the Jones boy. She did not recognize a picture of the Jones boy.

LEONARD'S STORY

The story that comes from Leonard Jones is that he and 12-year-old Bernard Bolton, of 3 W 115th st, were to meet a man at 16 W 111th st, but when they got there he did not show up. Leonard says the Bolton boy went up to the apartment while he stayed in the lower hall-way.

According to Leonard, when the police came, Bernard ran down the stairs and escaped through the lower hall window into the yard. Leonard says he was caught by a policeman before he could escape. He said [illegible] pulled out of his two coats as [illegible] policeman held them. Before he could escape through the window after Bernard, he said, he bit the officer's finger.

As he ran he was shot. One bullet pierced the child's back and came out of his chest; the other went through his back and came out of his fore arm. There are no bullet holes in the boy's top coats, but his shirt and under-shirt are a mass of blood. It is evident he was shot after he had been apprehended, and after the officer knew he was an unarmed youth. Yet, shooting is only justified when a police officer is in danger of bodily harm or when he is in pursuit of a dangerous criminal, in the opinion of lawyers consulted by PV.

Leonard was not pursued and taken by the police. He was turned over to the police by the manager of 55 W 110th st who found him in the hall of the fifth floor.

Leonard has no previous record for bad behavior and youth questioned in the neighborhood say they consider him a nice boy. Nothing was found on the boy. His mother says the police are holding a cheap ring that belongs to the boy. His father is dead.

Caught in Girls' Room, Georgia Negro Slain

VALDOSTA, GA., March 25—(AP)—A 23-year-old negro was shot and killed today by a policeman while being taken to jail by the officer and a member of the Home Guard.

Chief of Police H. M. Tassmore said T. W. Alderman, city officer, shot the negro four times when the latter attempted to grab the officer's pistol.

The negro, Gill Jones, dish washer in a restaurant, was identified by the officers as the man who entered the bedroom of two young white girls early today. The girls summoned their parents and the father held a gun on the negro until arrival of police. The negro escaped and officers fired at him as he fled into woods nearby.

State troopers, city police and about 100 members of the Home Guard searched the wooded area and found the negro lying under brush, Chief Tassmore said. He had been wounded in the hip.

Chief Tassmore said Officer Alderman was sitting in the back seat of an automobile with the prisoner and a member of the Home Guard was driving the car to the city jail when the negro was killed.

Savannah Police Lynch Negro In Mob Beating

SAVANNAH, Ga.—Latest in a series of indicdents involving police brutality in this town of 50,000 Negro and 50,000 white inhabitants resulted last week in the death of 25-year-old James Walter Oliver.

The usual charge of an attempted criminal attack on a white woman was made by police, but facts revealed by a Chicago Defender correspondent indicate that the charge is unfounded.

Investigation shows that an altercation took place at 31st street and Ogeechee Road around 10 p m. last Thursday between Oliver and a white man, Elmer Groves. The latter was accompanying a white woman down a fell lighted thickly populated street.

Woman Yells Rape

The two men were seen to brush up against each other under a street light and blowers were passed. The white man ran to a nearby telephone while the woman started yelling that she had been attacked.

Almost instantly four police squads and two motorcycle cops appeared and apprehended Oliver. He was dragged into the adjoining cemetery and his head was beaten to a pulp, his brains were beaten out and he was struck all over the head, eyes and ears with the blackjacks, shot five times including one shot directly in the abdomen.

The police then called the ambulance of the Sidney A. Jones Funeral home to take him to the hospital, unconscious and dying where he was pronounced dead shortly after arrival.

Trusted Employee

Oliver was a trusted employee of the past Foremost Dairy here for the past 15 years, ever since he was 10 years old in fact. So efficient was he that there were several white men in the dairy working under him. It is rumored that some whites had been envious of his job.

An investigation has been launched by the local NAACP chapter, the Rev. Mark Gilbert president. The general feeling here however, is that the incident will be white-washed as are all such police brutalities here.

Negroes in the city are completely at the mercy of the Hitlerites on the Savannah police force. Leading organizations of colored citizens as well as prominent white women have petitioned city authorities for the employment of colored policemen but officials have refused to consider the matter.

Dixie Cops Beat Negro Grandmother To Death

SELMA, Ala.—A Negro grandmother died en route to the county jail near here this week, following a brutal beating by a Dixie sheriff and three federal officers who attacked her with blackjacks.

Mrs. Hattie DeBardelaben, 46, was the victim of the vicious attack which resulted in her death. Chief Deputy Sheriff Clyde White, accompanied by three federal officers, approached Mrs. DeBardelaben at her home and told her she was suspected of selling "wildcat" whiskey.

A search of the premises bore out her statement that she was innocent. The officers then turned on her son, Robert, and nephew, James, aged 15, and struck them both. Further enraged by the grandmother's attempts to protect the boys, the men struck her with blackjacks.

Dies En Route to Jail

As she begged for her life, Mrs. DeBardelaben was beaten to her knees. One of the boys slipped away from the house and ran to the field where two older sons, Bennie and Johnnie, were working. The officers met the men with drawn guns, commanding them to keep their distance, or be killed.

Mrs. DeBardelaben, weak from the beating she had suffered, was thrown into a car along with her 15-year-old son, Edward. During the trip to Plattville jail several miles from here, the victim died. Upon their arrival at Prattville, the boy was put in jail and J. H. Williams, an undertaker here, was called to take charge of the body.

Witnesses said that the sheriff then summoned a white doctor and had him report the cause of death as "heart trouble." The two grown sons persuaded a white farmer to get their brother out of jail. The boy was released and taken to Montgomery, Ala., where he was charged with "having unstaxed liquor." A plea of not guilty was entered.

Ask Governor to Take Action

One of the federal officials, identified as one of the attackers, recommended the case be dropped. The judge then dismissed the case.

A full report of the case was made to the Birmingham branch NAACP, Emory O. Jackson, executive secretary, announced. A letter to Gov. Chauncey Sparks declared, "The evidence developed in this alleged slaying fits every

Federal Officers Charged With Slaying Woman

Journal & Guide
4-14-45

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (NNPA) — Action of the Department of Justice has been demanded by the Birmingham NAACP in the reported brutal killing of a Negro woman by federal and county officers in Selma, Ala. She was Mrs. Hattie Debardleben, 46, years old.

According to an affidavit filed in the case, three federal officers from Montgomery, Ala., and the county officer from Prattville, Ala., found a whiskey still on the plantation of W. J. Underwood. They arrested one of his men and then went about three and a half miles to Mrs. Debardleben's home on the same plantation where they found her washing in the backyard.

The officers asked her if she had any chickens to sell. Told he did not, they asked if she had any whiskey for sale. When old that she did not, they said they would search the place. They were told they could.

At this time Mrs. Debardleben's sister's son, about 16 years old, came in from school. He was told by the officers to go sit down. He seemed not to have heard the officers, who jumped on him and beat him. When she protested, two of the officers jumped on her. She was struck about the face and neck with fists and knocked down each time she tried to get up.

Soldier Killed by MP at Fort Dix

Afro-American
Balt., Md.

FORT DIX, N.J.—Pvt. Clayton Hartley of East Detroit died from a bullet wound in the head and three other soldiers were injured when military police attempted to quell a disturbance late Friday night during a dance at the Rifle Range USO Club, according to military officials.

1-20-45

The injured are:

Pvt. Sonnie Palmer of East Orange, N.J., shot in the arm, and T-Sgt. Fred Williams of 33-17 106th Street, Corona, Queens, and Sgt. Don Blackman, military policeman, of 251 Lenox Avenue, NYC, who were treated for cuts.

The military policemen were called in, according to post headquarters, after the altercation took place and in restoring order two or three shots were fired, Pvt. Hartley being shot in the head. He died in Tilton General Hospital a few hours later, the statement said.

A board of officers is reported investigating the affair.

MPs Knifed; NYer's Shot By Policeman

New York
Amsterdam News
1-27-45

Injured MPs Expected To Live; Civilian Cop Tried To Help; Report

PETERSBURG, Va., (ANP) —A brawl between military policemen and a group of soldiers from Camp Lee, Saturday, resulted in the death of one soldier, Pvt. Thomas Reed, 25, of New York, while the two MP's were severely cut.

According to reports, Reed and a soldier companion, both of whom had been drinking, were picked up by the MPs, and charged with disorderly conduct. Reed, officers said, was shot by a Petersburg civilian patrolman when he failed to halt a knife attack on two MP's.

The altercation between the soldiers and police officers resulted in the death of Reed, a slash about the thigh of Sgt. Purvis S. Box, Washington, while Pfc. Howard W. Best, Greenville, Ohio, suffered lacerations when his eye glasses were smashed into his face by Red's companion, who fled during the row.

According to public relations officers, both Box and Best lost a deal of blood and were accounted seriously wounded, though they will, no doubt recover, at the army service forces regional hospital at Camp Lee.

1-27-45

Lee was reported shot first through the leg and then in the heart, by the civilian patrolman, R. S. Shillcutt, who, with another officer had come to assist the MPs. Shillcutt is said to have shot a bullet into Best's leg.

POLICE WIN RETRIAL IN GEORGIA KILLING

New York Times

Supreme Court Rules on Case of 3 Officers Accused of Beating Negro to Death

5-8-45

CALLED SHOCKING CRIME

Douglas Says Trio Had Not Been Properly Convicted Under 'Racial Rights Law' of 1866

By LEWIS WOOD
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, May 7—By a vote of five to four, the Supreme Court today ordered new trials for three Georgia law officers who had been convicted under the Federal law of beating to death with their fists and a blackjack Robert Hall, a handcuffed Negro prisoner.

Justice William Q. Douglass, one of the court's most positive "liberals" wrote the majority opinion. He denounced the case as a "shocking and revolting episode." But he explained that the trio had not been properly convicted under Section 20, a law enacted in Reconstruction days to implement the Fourteenth Amendment, chiefly in protecting the rights of Negroes.

A new construction of Section 20 by Justice Douglas was said by lawyers to be one of the most important steps taken by the Supreme Court in several terms, and one which may have a great effect in future prosecutions for violations of civil liberties.

Debate the Term "Wilfully"

Debating the precise meaning of the much-discussed legal term "wilfully," he went on to say that the "specific intent" required by Section 20 "is an intent to deprive a person of a right which has been made specific either by the express terms of the Constitution or laws of the United States or by decisions interpresenting them."

In the Hall case, Mr. Douglas said that the trial judge had not submitted the question of willful intent to the jury with proper instructions, but that he had made his charge too broad.

The high tribunal split on the Hall case, on which it had heard arguments Oct. 20. Four separate opinions totaling 28,000 words were handed down today.

Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone and Justices Hugo L. Black and Stanley F. Reed agreed with Justice Douglas, but Justice Wiley Rutledge did so because, he stated, the case would otherwise have been stalemated. He said that he would like to sustain the convictions of Claude Screws, Sheriff of Baker County; Frank Jones, a policeman, and Jim Bob Kelley, a special deputy.

Murphy Explains Dissent

5-8-45

On the other side, Justice Frank Murphy dissented because, he stated, the evidence clearly showed that the three law officers "wilfully, or at least with wanton disregard of the consequences," killed the Negro. In another dissent, read by Justice Felix Frankfurter, joined by Justices Owen J. Roberts and Robert H. Jackson, this group held that the prosecution of the Georgia policemen should not have been conducted under Section 20 of the Federal law. The dissenters said the law was confined by the reconstruction statement in Congress "to attempted deprivations of Federal rights by State law and was not extended to breaches of State law by its officials."

In reversing the convictions, Justice Douglas said:

"The (trial) court charged that petitioners acted illegally if they applied more force than was necessary to make the arrest effectual or to protect themselves from the prisoner's (Hall's) alleged assault. But in view of our construction of the word 'willfully,' the jury should have been further instructed that it was not sufficient that petitioners had a generally bad purpose.

"To convict it was necessary for them (the jury) to find that petitioners had the purpose to deprive the prisoner of a constitutional right, that is the right to be tried by a court rather than by ordeal."

Assail Use of Section 20

5-8-45

The Frankfurter-Roberts-Jackson combination, criticizing the use of Section 20 for prosecution purposes, said the law officers could have been charged under State statutes, with murder or manslaughter, but "instead of leaving this misdeed to vindication by Georgia law, the United States deflected Georgia's responsibility by instituting a Federal prosecution."

Justice Murphy said it was unnecessary to send the case back for re-trial on the "assumption that the jury was not charged on the matter of the willfulness of the State officials, an issue that was not raised below or before us." He also said "the failure to charge the jury on willfulness was at most an inconsequential error."

Section 20, which originated in the Civil Rights Act of April, 1866, and was placed on the statute books on May, 1870, provides:

"Whoever, under color of any law, statute ordinance, regulation or customs, willfully subjects any inhabitant of any State to the deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States shall be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both."

Woman Slain; Officers Kill Suspect, 20

Atlanta Constitution
6-12-45

COLQUITT, Ga., June 11.—A Negro who had confessed to the murder of Mrs. Mae Cook Norman, 50-year-old farm woman of near Colquitt, was shot and killed when he made a break for freedom yesterday morning by Sheriff W. S Tabb and Deputy Sheriff Buck Tabb.

6-12-45

Charlie Lee Price, 20 years old, who lived near Mrs. Norman's farm, was shot when he fought his way out of Sheriff Tabb's automobile as he was being driven to the county jail, the sheriff said. Price had been arrested at his home about a quarter of mile from the Norman farm after Sheriff Tabb had traced him across a plowed field.

Mrs. Normans' body was found by her seven-year-old cousin, Ray Cook, early yesterday. The boy had been sent to borrow some coffee. Mrs. Norman had been clubbed about the head Saturday night and her body had been mutilated by hogs after she was slain.

A fruit jar, containing about $1,600 that had been buried by Mrs. Norman, was found in the garden where she had buried it. It had not been molested.

Sheriff Tabb said, "Price fought his way out of the car and kept on fighting us. Both Buck Tabb and I started shooting. I don't know how many times we fired." The sheriff said he doubted that a coroner's inquest would be held in the Negro's death.

43c-1945

New York

The 'Occupation Force' in Harlem

Daily Worker

WILBERT COHEN, 14-year-old Negro boy, was shot dead by a policeman in Harlem Thursday night Wilbert, who would have celebrated his 15th birthday Sunday, was on the fire escape at the rear of his home. Police, questioned by reporters, lied glibly that the victim was a burglary suspect, that he failed to halt when ordered and that they found a "jimmy" on his person. 11-6-45

Neither Patrolman John Peller, who killed the boy, nor Peller's superiors at the 126th St. station, could produce the "Jimmy" or any evidence of attempted burglary. Nor were they able to explain how Wilbert was expected to hear the alleged order to halt, since Peller killed him by firing through a drawn shade and a locked window from inside a room. The captain in charge of the 126th St. Station told a Daily Worker reporter that there would be a grand jury hearing. He added, however, that he was sure Peller would not be indicted. N. Y. N.Y.

Why was he so sure? Because he knew that the police in general have the status of an enemy occupation force in New York's Negro communities. A policeman in the Brownsville area of Brooklyn a few weeks ago beat a 14-year-old Negro girl. He has not been indicted. Police Sergeant George Neff, of the 77th precinct, Brooklyn, broke into the home of and beat Miss Ruth Hemmings, "Miss Negro Victory Worker of 1945." He has not been indicted. Harlem police beat Guy Brewer, Negro Democratic leader of the 12th A. D. during the recent registration.

No wonder they are so cocksure about the Wilbert Cohen case!

All this should prove to an aroused people that solution of this question lies in their hands.

Quick-Trigger Cop in Harlem Slays 14-Year-Old Negro Boy

Daily Worker

11-3-45

Wilbert Cohen, 14-year-old Negro boy of 1697 Park Avenue, was brutally killed by "quick-on-the-trigger" patrolman John Peller shortly after midnight Thursday.

Peller fired through a closed window at the silhouette of young Cohen who was on the fire escape of Apartment 6 at 105 E. 119th St., around the corner from his home. Two bullets struck the victim, one piercing his liver, the other his heart. Wounded, he climbed one flight on the fire escape and fell dead into an apartment. His mother, Mrs. Bertha Cohen, has not been allowed to see the boy's body, now in the City morgue.

VISITED GIRL FRIENDS

Early in the evening Wilbert had accompanied several neighborhood girls to the movies. They returned about 10:30 and sat for a while on the stoop of one of the girl's homes.

On leaving, Wilbert, according to his companions, said he was going to visit with some other friends, the Cotsi girls, living in apartment 19 of 105 E. 119th St.

The mother of the Cotsi girls objected to Wilbert's friendship with her daughters. He would usually leave by the window when she came home from work about midnight. A sister of Wilbert said this friendship was going on for some time.

According to Mrs. Cohen, Wilbert wore his coat when he left home. When found dead he was in his shirt sleeves. On Friday morning the coat was found on the sofa of his home after it was placed there during the night by someone who entered through the window. The Cohen family did not sleep in their apartment on Thursday night after Wilbert was killed. 11-3-45

The desk sergeant at the 126th St. Police Station, to which Peller is attached, said that Cohen was killed for burglary and that a "jimmy" had been found. He said, however, that he did not know where the jimmy was.

The police station captain said the slaying was for attempted felony and that Wilbert had tried to break into apartment 6.

Neither police officer would reveal his name. Occupants of apartment 6 denied that Wilbert attempted to break into the apartment.

The captain said Wilbert had been ordered to halt and "if he had he would not have been killed." The captain did not explain how it was that Peller, who was behind a closed window, expected Wilbert to hear his command.

Neighbors of the Cohen family said that Wilbert was a quiet boy and loved to play. He was in 8B.

According to James Evans, a neighborhood boy, two police cars were parked nearby at about 10:30. The police were reported searching all Negro youths between the ages of 9 to 12.

After the killing, some 35 to 40 police hastened to the scene. The Cohen family was roughly treated by them, neighbors say.

The captain said there would be a Grand Jury hearing, and that Peller would probably be cleared. The hearing, he said, was expected in about a week. No subpena has been issued to date.

This is the third shooting of Negro youths in Harlem in the last few weeks.

WILBERT COHEN'S KILLER STILL ON FORCE

The Worker

The murder of Wilbert Cohen, 14-year-old Negro youth is still under "investigation," according to Assistant District Attorney, Alexander Herman, two weeks after he was killed by a trigger-quick cop in East Harlem. 11-4-N.Y.

Herman stated the case was not ready for the grand jury because new evidence had been uncovered The evidence could not be made public, he said, but will be presented to the grand jury.

Captain William J. Beneke of the 25th Precinct to which John Peller, the killer, is attached, stated, on the contrary, that the case was ready for the grand jury, but they were "waiting for witnesses for the Cohen family." According to Beneke, Peller killed young Cohen "in the line of duty." Cohen was accused by the police of attempting to break into Apartment 6 at 105 East 119th St. where he was killed.

The tenant Apartment 6 denies that young Cohen attempted to break in. 11-13-45

The whole community has been aroused by the killing, and is planning mass action to have Peller suspended and put on trial. The funeral, on Sunday, Nov. 4, was a protest rally, with 500 participating. Wilbert was buried on Monday, Nov. 5 after a protest demonstration of parents and youth to the police station, where a delegation to Captain Beneke demanded that Peller be punished.

Councilmen Benjamin J. Davis and Peter V. Cacchione are planning to call a conference in the near future on police brutality against the Negro people in Harlem and Brooklyn.

'My Child Never Had a Chance,' Says Mother Of 14-Year-Old Negro Boy Shot by Cop

The Worker New York, New York 11-11-45

By MILDRED McADORY

A Negro mother and her two young daughters were very sad today. One of their family was missing. He is Wilbert Cohen, 14-year-old Negro lad, shot dead by patrolman John Peller, early Friday morning. Wilbert had been visiting some friends in an apartment at 105 E. 119 St. He had come down the fire escape to go to his home around the corner at 1697 Park Ave.

Wilbert was shot through a drawn shade and a closed window.

Some 500 of his friends and neighbors attended his funeral service last Sunday. That day was to have been his 15th birthday.

They filled the small neighborhood church and stood in the street. There were tears in their eyes. They loved Wilbert as their own. His mother moved into the neighborhood when he was six. The family moved from one condemned house to another.

An angry, protesting procession went through Harlem Monday as they went to bury Wilbert . . . weeping men and women protesting the brutal killing of a child by the police. They went to the police station and demanded justice. Mothers and fathers, each saw this as their own child, because Wilbert was a typical child, going to school, working on Saturdays for the ice man, doing other odd jobs to help his mother.

The white landlady at 105 E. 119 St., where he was shot, said, "I invited Wilbert to come Friday and have cake with us, my son came home today from overseas." She and Mrs. Cohen, locked in each other's arms, began to cry. A neighbor said, "Your son went to war to fight fascism, he came home to find it in his own house."

Mrs. Cohen, his mother, said, "I can't believe it's true until I get inside the house. He always seemed so alive, I keep thinking he'll come in. But my poor child never had a chance."

The entire neighborhood is angry, demanding a public trial and punishment of patrolman Peller.

According to friends, Wilbert had been to a movie early in the evening with the neighbor's girls. They returned and Wilbert sat on the porch of one of the girl's homes for a while, Wilbert said he was going to visit other friends at 105 E. 119 St. The mother of these girls objected to Wilbert's visits. According to Wilbert's seven-year-old sister Pracilla, he visited the girls often, leaving by the fire escape when the girls' mother came home.

Photos Show Harlem Youth Was Shot Through a Closed Window

According to police, Wilbert was attempting to burglarize Apartment 6, the apartment from which he was shot, although the tenant denies an attempt was made to break into the apartment. Police said a jimmy was found, although when questioned, did not know where the jimmy was.

The case was officially closed on the grounds that the killing was justified. However, because of mass protest it has been reopened. There will be a hearing next week, according to Capt. William J. Beneke, Jr., captain of the 25th precinct, where patrolman Peller is stationed.

Playmates of Wilbert Cohen gather on a Harlem porch to discuss the shooting. In other photo Mrs. Bertha Cohen, the slain boy's mother, examines his clothing in his room at their apartment at 1697 Park Ave. Neighbors of the bereaved family testify Wilbert was a good boy.

43c--1945 North Carolina

BULLET IN BACK SLAYS NEGRO SUSPECT IN GOLDSBORO, N. C.

Miami - WHIP

By CARL EASTERLING

GOLDSBORO, N. C. — Marvin Edmunson, 31, running for his life, was instantly killed when blasted in the back by a bullet from the revolver of Roy Jones, Goldsboro police officer, just outside the city limits of North Goldsboro, Saturday night, at 10 o'clock. The dead man's companion, Caesar A. Fort, was wounded in the right elbow by some "unknown officer" as he took flight in an opposite direction, it was reported. 7-7-45

This reporter was completely baffled, when after four hours of unrelenting investigation, he could find no one to give a bonified reason for the fatal shooting of Edmunson and the attempt on the life of Fort.

The exact instant that Edmunson "started over Jim Reid's fence the bullet struck him under the left shoulder" blasting him from the fence.

Some witnesses reported that "Marvin was shot again after falling to the ground," but the latter charge was not substantiated by further inquiry.

Coroner Seymour emphasized that "there will be no further hearing of the case unless new developments demand such hearing."

When asked by the investigator to give his decision as to the cause of Edmunson's death the coroner, William A. Seymour, replied "accident."

The boys were allegedly riding along the Goldsboro to Wilson highway when the chase began. Seeing that they were being overtaken by the officers' car they immediately stopped their vehicle and began to run to safety, both men running in opposite directions.

To find and clearly inform Carolinian readers of all angles of the officers' barbarous activities, this reporter questioned Negroes as well as whites in several sections of Goldsboro.

The wife of Edmunson was sick with fear of her own safety, it seemed. Every time a question was addressed to her she simply, but nervously, nodded her head monotonously in one direction for yes or no.

The leading Negroes, along with the boy's wife, and the masses of others, seem to know nothing at all of the killing. That I had the nerve to ask about the ruthlessnes of the officers made many colored people look upon me with awe.

After two days, we finally obtained a statement from the Goldsboro chief of police, H. T. Hines. Chief Hines relates that "the boys were being chased for hauling whiskey."

"When Edmunson found that he could not escape in the car driven by himself, he stopped his car and ran, the police following, chased him into Jim Reid's fence whereupon the cops' revolver accidentally went off, instantly killing the Negro." This is the story reported by the offending officer, Chief Hill admitted. A 10-gallon container of whiskey was found in the automobile and was confiscated by the police department.

Chief Hill's story differs from Coroner Seymour's story in that the former said that the case is not at all closed. The chief said that he will see to it that both the officer and the slain man will get justice through further investigation and facts on both sides. Coroner Seymour insisted that for all practical purposes the case is closed. 7-7-45

He will be glad to make public any further facts in the case in interest of all the people of Goldsboro, Chief Hill indicated to me as I contacted him again today by long-distance telephone.

43c-1945

Oklahoma

Appeal Made To Governor Davis To Investigate And Act On Black Jack Attack

Louisiana Weekly
New Orleans, La.
12-1-45

12-1-45

ROBERT C. WILLIAMS

It was disclosed by the local branch of the NAACP this week that Robert Chester Williams, Marrero, La., had been another post-war victim of police brutality, in which state highway cops used methods that were similar to those invented by the Nazis on the suppression of the Jews in Germany.

Williams, who has a privately owned trucking business went to the home of Dr. Charles Gelpi to make a bid on the hauling of some sand at the request of Mrs. Gelpi. Tony Paulia, a white trucker, was also present for the same purpose. Mrs. Gelpi, after receiving the bids, told Williams that in the event she required his service she would notify him.

N----rs taking his business

Later in the afternoon Williams stated that "Tony Paulia flaged me down. I stopped my truck and walked to the back of the truck and he came across the highway saying, 'You N---rs' have all these trucks around here cutting in on my business and I have a brother who is a speed cop. You have just beat me out of a job and my brother is going to give you some trouble. I informed Tony that I had not been notified that Mrs. Gelpi had accepted my bid." 12-1-45

Cops beat him

Two days later, Williams says, while he was waiting for the draw bridge to close at Marrero, Officer Joseph Paulia, brother of Tony Paulia, driving a private car ordered him to pull over to the side of the road. At the same time the draw bridge closed and another state policeman drove over from the other side of the bridge on a motorcycle. Officer Paulia, Williams says, told him: "Consider yourself under arrest, n'----r." Following this, Williams says, Paulia hit him with his fist and "got in the car with me and made me pull over the bridge and on the side of the road by a grocery store. He pulled me out of the truck and the other officer proceeded to beat me up with a Black Jack. I began to scream for help. Officer Joseph Paulia said, 'N----r you beat my brother out of a job and no one is going to help you.'"

Jailed and robbed

Williams stated that he was then taken to jail in Gretna, beaten again, shirt ripped off and robbed of three dollars, which was in his shirt pocket. He stated that he was further booked with assault and battery, claiming that the latter action was supposed to have been on the jailer. He was later released on $2500 bond.

Nazi-like attack

Daniel E. Byrd, executive secretary of the NAACP, in a letter to Governor James R. Davis (with copies to the Superintendent of State Police and Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the NAACP) in part stated, "if the State Policemen are going to become Hitler-like in their tactics and intimidate Negroes who are going about their gainful occupation, then we become no longer a Democratic Louisiana, but a Fascist Louisiana."

Request action by Governor

He further wrote, "Negroes are taxpayers and contribute to the support of the salary of the State Policemen involved. I am sure no sane minded person would endorse what took place in Marrero, La. Certainly, it is another black mark upon the Law Enforcement Officers in Louisiana. 12-1-45

"We therefore, request immediate investigation and if the facts are in keeping with the statement, we request immediate dismissal of Officer Joseph Paulia and his arrest and prosecution. We feel that this request is not unreasonable. As a means of curbing further brutality, we feel that there is definite need for an Educational Program to be instituted not only in the Department of State Police, but in every Law Enforcement Agency throughout Louisiana."

43c-1945

Want Probe Police Killing Father of Five

Savannah Ga. Tribune

PORTLAND, Ore. (ANP)—A probe has been ordered into the police slaying of Ervin Jones, a father of five children, here recently. 9-27-45

Jones was shot to death in a well lighted room after he had refused to admit police officers. Prior to death, the victim, who was shot at a distance of about 12 feet, stated he refused to open the door because he thought the officers were robbers.

A number of local civic and church bodies here came to the aid of his widow when it was revealed that she was financially unable to bury her husband or escort his remains to Shreveport, La., his native home. Funds for the family are being solicited through a committee headed by the Rev. Geo. W. Brown, pastor of Gana St. Community church.

The district attorney has ordered an investigation of the fatal police shooting through a coroner's inquest, which might set aside a former coroner's verdict that the slaying was justifiable homicide.

At the next inquest, Mrs. Jones will be assisted by the NAACP legal committee and a score of other orgnizations. The victim is survived by five children between the ages of two and 11 years.

Oregon

It Happened in Portland

BY CAREY McWILLIAMS

(Author of "Prejudice: Japanese Americans" and "Ill Fares the Land")

the Nation

Los Angeles, October 22

IN response to the appeals to patriotism of the Kaiser shipyards and the War Manpower Commission, Ervin Jones, a middle-aged Negro, left his home in Shreveport, Louisiana, in the early days of the war to work in Portland, Oregon. With Jones came other members of his family—his wife, Elva; his five children, Ardoria, Marie, Derret, Ervin, Jr., and Revordia; and two sisters of Mrs. Jones, Susie and Zandaree Rembo. Portland was crowded, but the Jones family found a small apartment in Guilds Lake, a predominantly Negro district. Jones and Zandaree found employment in the shipyards as chippers—hard, dirty, and dangerous work. The family got along all right in Portland but hoped to return to their home in Shreveport after the war. One of the slogans in the campaign to enlist shipyard workers for the West Coast had been, "You will like our mountains." They liked the mountains around Portland, Elva said, but they missed the lake, the pine mills, the zinnias, the acacia tree, and their friends in the First Baptist Church "back home." N.Y. 11-3-45

On August 21 last, at two in the morning, four policemen in plain clothes and a deputy district attorney went to the Jones apartment on a tip from a Negro informer that they might find Scott Thomas, a Negro wanted for the murder of Beatrice Terry, a Negro woman. The officers had no definite information that Thomas was, or had been, in the Jones apartment; they were acting on mere suspicion, based on the word of an informer. The evidence of what actually happened when they sought to enter the Jones apartment is sharply contradictory: the police officers contend that Jones attempted to resist a search of the premises; the Jones family say that they thought robbers were breaking into the apartment, that they did not know the intruders were police. In any case Officer Bard Purcell shot and killed Ervin Jones in the apartment. The officers did not find Scott Thomas, nor did they discover any evidence that he had been using the apartment as a hideout.

The police maintained that no inquest was necessary, but under the leadership of Mrs. Ruth Haefner a Citizens' Committee was formed on September 16 for the purpose of demanding a formal inquiry by a coroner's jury. Yielding to the demands of this group, the coroner convened a rather remarkable jury of six citizens to investigate the circumstances under which Jones had met his death. Though the case involved Negroes and occurred in a Negro district, no Negroes were put on this jury. Under the Oregon law the coroner need not consult anyone in selecting a jury, and the jury chosen consisted largely of officers of the Republican Party machine in Portland. These were: Helen La Monde, who acted as campaign manager for the Republican Party during the recent Portland mayoralty election; Harriet Monroe, state secretary and treasurer of the Council of Republican Women; Mrs. C. E. Runyan, ex-national committeewoman, former member of the Republican State Central Committee, active leader in Pro-America; John Dickson, retired railroad executive, Rotarian, and a Republican member of the state legislature; H. L. Idleman, a state office-holder and a member of the Republican State Central Committee; and Richard Tusant, described merely as a "Republican." After hearing testimony for two days, the jury retired and within an hour returned a verdict of justifiable homicide. At the inquest the presiding officer refused to permit the jurors to be questioned about any possible prejudice and denied a request that the police officers should place on the record their original report on the shooting. 11-3-45 N.Y., N.Y.

The same Citizens' Committee that had demanded the inquest promptly denounced the verdict as "an invitation to lawlessness, a serious threat to the security of all persons in their own homes, and a grave miscarriage of justice." This statement was signed by representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Mrs. Nancy Honeyman Robinson, Democratic national committeewoman from Oregon and an outstanding citizen of the Northwest, numerous churchmen, and other citizens of Portland. The Portland *Oregonian*, in an editorial of October 12, called for a thorough investigation, pointing out that four of the six jurors were active in Republican machine politics and that no Negro had been selected, "although racial feelings could not be excluded from a case of this kind." On the night after the release of the coroner's verdict a near-riot, in which Negro soldiers took part, occurred in the Vanport area. Acting on the demands made by the Citizens' Committee, the district attorney announced that the case would be submitted to the grand jury and that the evidence would be presented by a representative of the Attorney General's office, since a deputy district attorney was one of the eyewitnesses to the shooting. Early in the morning of October 15 an attempt was made against the life of Thomas B. Handley, the district attorney, but was thwarted by police officers detailed to guard his home after he had received threatening messages.

The behavior of the Portland police since the shooting of Jones has been truly amazing. Despite the excitement aroused by the case in a community that has been described as a major area of racial tension for the last two years, the police issued a statement charging that the Citizens' Committee's demand for a grand-jury investigation was merely an attempt to foster racial strife! Some time after Jones was killed the police arrested Scott Thomas, the man they were seeking on the night of August 21. Shortly before the Portland City Club, commented upon in the editorial columns of *The Nation* on August 25, provided coroner's inquiry, however, Scott Thomas, together with six documentary proof that immediate action was needed. This teen other prisoners, escaped from the county jail. Although report stressed the unsatisfactory conduct of the police and the police managed to catch the other escaped prisoners, made specific recommendations to Mayor Riley and Governor Scott Thomas, an important witness for the Jones family, is have been expected, the recommendations still at large. A few days ago the police announced that they The present widespread demand for an exhad received information that Thomas was actually in the haustive investigation of the Jones case will probably assure Jones apartment when the shooting occurred, but they have an honest and thorough inquiry by the grand jury, but that refused to provide any details. 11-3-45 will not of itself clear the charged atmosphere in Portland For two years now informed observers have warned the today. In fact, the existing tensions are likely to increase authorities that race feeling was running dangerously high as unemployment mounts in the area. If trouble is to be in Portland. Nevertheless, Mayor Earl Riley has stubbornly avoided, the minimum program recommended by the Portland City Club should be put into effect at once.

The family took the body of Ervin Jones back to Shreveport, because, as Mrs. Jones said, "Portland earth," But they have returned to Portland to assist in the pending investigation

Lynch-Slaying in S.C. Revealed

Baltimore, Md.

PHILADELPHIA

The Gestapo-like lynch-slaying of her father two months ago in an obscure South Carolina county near the border of Georgia was revealed Saturday by Mrs. Beatrice G. Singleton, former Navy Yard employee, of 3037 Market St. 11-17-45

Her father, Moses Green, 51, a resident of Barnwell County, was fatally shot in his yard Sept. 5 by two deputy sheriffs who pumped four bullets into his body after trailing him ten miles from the town of Ellenton in Aiken County, Mrs. Singleton said.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Aiken County is reported to be the native home of Secretary of State James Byrnes.]

Mrs. Singleton reported that her father was shot without warning and that a companion, George Golphin, who lived nearby, was threatened by the killers.

Identified Killers

They were identified by Mrs. Singleton as John Stephens, who reputedly wielded the murder weapon, and Sam Low.

No action, not even the formality of an inquest, has been taken against the officers, according to Mrs. Singleton, although Acting Gov. Ransome J. Williams has promised an investigation.

Mrs. Singleton said that she has filed a complaint with the civil liberties division of the Department of Justice and that South Carolina State Conference of NAACP Branches at Columbia is probing the incident.

Recounts Events

In describing what she called the deliberate, cold-blooded murder of her father, Mrs. Singleton recounted events leading up to and including the slaying as follows:

Two weeks before his death, Mr. Green had been stopped by the two officers in Ellenton on a minor traffic charge. He paid a fine of $2.50. 11-17-45

Followed by Officers

On the night of the shooting he and Mr. Golphin were returning in the former's truck from a shopping trip to Augusta, Ga. When they passed through Ellenton, about ten miles from the victim's home, the two officers began trailing them.

After they had traveled about five miles, one shot was fired by Stephens which struck the top of the cab of Mr. Green's truck.

When he stopped, the officer stopped. He stopped several more times, and the officers, as though stalking an animal, also stopped.

Puncture Tire

A short distance from Mr. Green's home they fired again, this time striking one of the rear wheels and puncturing a tire.

After managing to get home, Mr. Green cut off his ignition and as he put his foot on the ground, Stephens again opened fire and shot him four times instantly killing him.

When the victim's wife, Mrs. Martha Green, came to the door to investigate the shooting, Stephens had his pistol in the side of Mr. Golphin, threatening him.

No Explanation

After asking whether they thought a doctor would help, the two officers left without offering an explanation to Mrs. Green as to why her husband was shot.

White undertakers soon came to remove the body and Mr. Green was buried three days alter.

Leaves 3 Small Children

In addition to his daughter, he has three children, all under ten years of age. Mrs. Singleton said that her mother plans to move North as soon as she can straighten up affairs at home. 11-19-45

In the meantime, she has appealed for aid for the three children who have been left without means of support since their father's death.

Mrs. Singleton, a former welder at the Navy Yard, is now employed at a fraternity house at the University of Pennsylvania. Her husband, Pvt. Henry Stephens, is now overseas.

Mr. Green's murder was the third lynch-slaying in two months. Last month Jesse James Payne, 30, was taken from a jail in Madison County, Fla., and shot to death. 11-17-45

On Oct. 29, the swollen and partly decomposed body of Sam McFadden, was found floating along Suwanee River in Florida. Accused of the slaying, Tom Crews, who doubles as police chief and constable of Branford and Fifth Suwanee County District, and Leroy Cribbs, operator of peonage camps in the jungle-like pine turpentine belt of Florida, have been booked on murder charges.

Green, two Florida Negroes— Jesse James Payne and Sam McFadden— have been murdered in quick succession by lynchers in their home state).

A SOUTHERN GIRL TELLS WHO LYNCHED HER FATHER

By Beatrice G. Singleton

Dear Mr. Preece:

I received your letter yesterday and I am showing my appreciation of your interest and kind sympathy by an early reply. My father was shot and brutally killed September 8, 1945 in his yard. He was driven from the little town, Ellenton, South Carolina, ten miles to where he ived in Barnwell County. The police were from Aiken County. 11-24-45

When he got to the house and cut off the ignition and put one foot on the ground, the police started shooting without any warning or any words whatever. He died immediately without uttering any words.

I don't know of anything they had against my father and I can't understand why they did it. He had lived in the vicinity all of his life and was never known to have had any trouble with anybody. He had farmed in Barwell County for approximately 25 years, since he was discharged from the army in 1919 from World War I.

He was 51 at the time of his death. His name was Moses Green. There were two police, namely Sam Low and Johny Stephen. The latter did the shooting. No action has been taken by South Carolina officials. I went to a lawyer myself in Aiken, South Carolina and he refused to take the case, saying "It was a needless waste of time."

The police are still on duty and never were arrested. My father is survived by a wife, Janie Lue Green, four children, Jonathan 8, Errestine 6, and Edna Mae 4, also myself 24, by his first wife and my name is Beatrice Singleton. I am married and live at the above address but my step-mother lives at the address you wrote to in Ellenton with the three small kids. She sent the letter to me. My fathe also survived by Oliver Gree brother, Minnie Stallings, a sist both of Jax, Florida. Isaac Green, brother of Meyers Mill, S. C.; Frances Ingram of Meyers Mill, S. C., a sister and Angeline Davis, sister of Clearwater, S. C.; and several nieces, nephews and friends.

Since my father's death, I have learned that two more men have been killed in Florida by lynchers and that in each case, officers of the law were involved as was true when my father died.

I don't know the families of Sam McFadden and Jesse James Payne there in Florida. But I know how they feel and I want to extend my deepest sympathy through your column to them.

Grief Won't Stop It

But I'd like to tell them and tell every other American of every other race that grieving won't stop lynchings.

My father is dead, but John Stephen is still paid by Aiken County to pack a gun to kill more Negroes. Chief of Police Tom Crews at Branford, Florida, who is accused of helping kill Sam McFadden also carries a gun. So does Sheriff Lonnie Davis over at Madison County although he left the door unlocked for the lynchers of Jesse James Payne.

It's up to our President and our members of Congress to use all of their executive and legislative powers to protect all citizens of the South in all their rights. It's up to us—Americans of all races and colors, North and South—to make them do it. 11-24-45

If we had made Congress enact the federal anti-lynching bill, my father would have been alive and so would those other two Negroes in Florida. If Congress had passed the poll tax repealer bill and backed it up with whatever federal authority that was necessary to guarantee free elections in the South, Negroes and decent white people together could vote those officials who protect lynchings out of office.

Three Negroes have been lynched in three weeks—my father on September 8; Sam McFadden on September 21, and Jesse James Payne on October 1.

It's time for us to stop crying. It's time for us to start doing.

The Living South

By HAROLD PREECE

The Informer
Houston, Texas

Editor's Note— This week, Mr. Preece turns over his column to Mrs. Beatrice G. Singleton to expose the names of the men who lynched her father, Moses Green, at his home near Ellenton, South Carolina, last September 8. The column is based upon letters sent by the 24-year-old girl to Mr. Preece from her present home in Philadelphia. Since the lynching of Mr.

'Lynch Victim' Killed During 'Bootleg Raid'

The New York Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.
11-24-45

S. C. Sheriff Says: 'Twas 'Just Ordinary Slaying, Not Lynching'

COLUMBIA, S. C. (ANP)—Sheriff Price Fallow, of Aiken county, claimed last week that the Singleton lynching was not a lynching but merely a shooting by peace officers in order to capture bootleggers.

He admitted that a Negro "named Singleton had been shot to death somtime ago in a bootleg raid made by Ellenton police after chasing a truck full of supplies for a still."

Insufficient Evidence

An investigation of Singleton's death has been urged by numerous letters and telegrams to Governor Ransome J. Williams from various parts of the country, but an effective probe has been hampered by insufficient evidence. The dead man's relative, reportedly his daughter, wrote a letter in which she charged that her father was shot to death by police officers, to a friend in Savannah, which was turned over to James M. Hinton, state NAACP president, who is reported to have turned the letter over to Governor Williams for investigation.

Sheriff Comments

Insufficient detailed information on the death of Singleton makes it difficult to counter Sheriff Fallow's version of the slaying, a local citizen remarked. None of his relatives have come forward to push the charges, he added. Governor Williams acknowledged receiving telegrams and letters, "mostly from California and New York," asking an investigation of "a lynching of a Negro named Singleton down in Aiken county. 11-24-45

"I don't know of any lynching down there," he said. "I've seen no reports of any, and no one in the state has said anything to me about it."

The governor admitted that St. Claire Pressley, a Negro war veteran of Hemingway in Williamsburg county, had been shot to death at near-by Johnsonville in Florence county, "reportedly by a law officer". He has asked Sheriff Dan H. Clarke, of Florence county to make a report of the killing.

Report Dismissal of Veteran Slayer

Afro-America
Baltimore, Md
12-1-45

HEMINGWAY, S.C.—(ANP)—Town officer W. Parrott, who shot to death Pfc. St. Clair Pressley in what witnesses testified as "cold blood," has been summarily dismissed, NAACP officials here said Monday.

George A. Melvin, president of the Hemingway NAACP branch, said his investigation of rumors to this effect, practically verified the belief, adding that an unusual amount of indignation against Parrot from white citizens had not only forced his dismissal, but subsequent moving out of town.

Warrant Sought

Meanwhile, J. W. Pressley, large successful farmer near here and father of the ex-soldier who had been honorably discharged less than one week when slain, said a warrant charging Parrot with murder would be drawn, either by the circuit solicitor or himself.

A coroner's jury exonerated Parrott Tuesday night at an inquest attended by the largest gathering in the history of the town.

Funeral services for Pressley who had seen four years of service in both Europe and the Pacific in his 21 years, were conducted Thursday from the Friendship Methodist Church at Nesmith. Witnesses said Parrot shot him while he stood with both hands akimbo.

The officer's charge that the youth pulled a knife was disputed by colored and white persons who witnessed the incident two Saturday nights ago in Johnsonville, five miles north of here.

12-1-45

Police lynching of war vet in South Carolina alleged

Los Angeles, Calif. Tribune
12-10-45

NEW YORK—St. Claire Pressley, Negro war veteran of Hemingway, S. C., was shot and killed by a police officer in Johnsonville, S. C., last month, Rep. Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense, claimed last week, demanding federal action and prosecution of the policeman.

Pressley, just discharged from service, reportedly stepped off the train in Johnsonville on his way home to Hemingway, and was immediately arrested on suspicion of being involved in a minor disturbance occurring several days before. The arresting officer marched him down the street with a gun in his ribs. Pressley offered no resistance, but the officer suddenly pulled the trigger killing him, it is alleged.

12-10-45

Upon complaint of James M. Hinton, president of NAACP South Carolina, the officer is reported to have been suspended.

Marcantonio has wired Attorney General Tom Clark for action, declaring that this is the fourth case in the last three months in which local police authorities in Florida and South Carolina have been directly involved in the lynching or lynch-murder of Negroes.

Launch Petition Campaign To Nail S. C. Lynch-Killers

By WALTER LOWENFELS

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — A petition campaign is under way to bring the lynch-murderers of Moses Green to justice. The daughter of the South Carolina farmer who was shot and killed by deputy sheriffs in September lives here and has helped to start the drive for petition signatures for justice in the case which The Worker first exposed.

The petitions call on the Department of Justice in Washington to step into the case and see that justice is done. They also ask Secretary of State Byrnes, as South Carolina's leading citizen, to use his good offices to get some of the democracy he speaks of for Bulgaria applied to his home state.

RENEWED HOPE

Mrs. Beatrice Singleton, 24-year-old daughter of the South Carolina victim, said this week:

"I feel better now. I thought it was all forgotten, but now I see people are interested."

Mrs. Singleton, whose husband is with the Army in Okinawa, is being invited to tell the story of her father's murder at meetings of organizations throughout the city.

"I hope they will all join the petition drive and do what they can to get the Department of Justice to investigate."

Mrs. Singleton was born a few miles from the Ellenton, South Carolina, farm where her father was killed. She was a welder in the Navy Yard until a few weeks ago, when she was laid off and got a job in a University of Pennsylvania fraternity house.

"It hurts me to talk about my father's murder," she said. "But I know it has to be done. It will not only help get justice for him. If that happens, it will help stop the way my people are treated, and bring better feelings between Negro and white people so we can all have a better world, like my husband and the others fought for."

In a soft voice, and looking straight ahead, Mrs. Singleton who has never before talked in public, speaks to stilled audiences: **"My name is Beatrice Singleton. I am the daughter of Moses Green who was brutally murdered by the police."**

MRS. BEATRICE SINGLETON, daughter of Moses Green, South Carolina lynch victim, holds a picture of her father. —Peace photo

As she tells of the telegrams that sent her hurrying home for her father's funeral, and the facts she obtained during the five weeks she spent at home, two terrible scenes stand out. One is the 10-mile drive home of her father and his neighbor John Golphin from the little town of Ellenton, on Saturday night, Sept. 8. Two deputy sheriffs in a car shoot at her father's auto, without any reason, stop every time the two Negroes stopped, refuse to catch up to them or pass, and then starting fire again each time the drive home is resumed.

Following this Nazi-like man-hunt, comes the murder in the farmyard.

"My father stepped out of the car. When his left foot touched the ground, John Stephens, one of the police, shot him three or four times, and he fell dead. My mother ran out of the house and saw Stephens holding a gun on John Golphin. Then she saw my father on the ground and began screaming. The police gave no reason, and left. There was no inquest. My father was a veteran of World War I."

The widow, who is Mrs. Singleton's step-mother (her mother died in 1936), has been left with three young children to support: Joe Nathan, 7; Ernestine, 6; Edna Mae, 4. "The state of South Carolina ought to be made to pay compensation to help support them," Mrs. Singleton adds.

She believes that the eye-witness to the murder, George Golphin, is in danger of his life.

"In Discharge Of Duty"

From "Lighthouse Informer"

Town Officer W. Parrot was absolved Tuesday night of fault in shooting to death ex-soldier St. Clair U. Pressley. A coroner's jury decided Parrot put Pressley to death "in the discharge of duty."

Observers at the inquest say that no witness for either side saw the ex-soldier draw or hold a knife, that he was shot just above the solar plexus while standing with both hands ahip in the fashion of soldiers. He had not been disorderly and had merely stood with others who had ignored inquiries of Parrot.

It seems established that all police officers kill Negroes "in discharge of duty," that they ofttimes beat them brutally "in discharge of duty." Aiken county officers shot to death from the rear a colored man named Singleton, if we are to believe the Aiken sheriff "in the discharge of duty" and a city bus driver hacked Isaiah Mack of Fort Jackson with a hatchet, perhaps "in discharge of duty."

Is it "in discharge of duty" also to let these men go unpunished? Is it in "discharge of duty" to absolve them forever on perjured testimony? If the white people in South Carolina will not move to destroy this inhuman practice, the colored people ought move to erase it. They would then be acting "in discharge of duty."

Thwart Mob Action

Hemingway, S. C., (ANP)—Threatened mob action by Negroes against the slaying of an honorably discharged veteran at Johnsonville Saturday night created excitement throughout the night and early Sunday morning, but was quelled by cool headed leaders, it was disclosed Monday.

When reports reached here, five miles south, of the slaying by town officer of St. Claire Pressley whose parents are much admired and respected, several groups banded for an invasion of Johnsonville to "get the officer", reliable sources said. So intense was the indignation that leaders found it difficult to console the men, the source advised.

Lynch Victim Shot in Raid—Sheriff

COLUMBIA, S. C. (ANP)— Sheriff Price Fallow of Aiken county claimed last week that the Singleton lynching was not a lynching but merely a shooting by peace officers in order to capture bootleggers.

An investigation of Singleton's death has been urged by numerous letters and telegrams to Gov. Ransome J. Williams from various parts of the country but an effective probe has been hampered by insufficient evidence.

Gov. Williams acknowledged receiving telegrams and letters, asking an investigation of "a lynching." "I don't know of any lynching down there," he said.

Marcantonio Demands Gov't Act In S. C. Cop Killing of Negro Vet

The Daily Worker New York N.Y.

Congressman Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense, yesterday demanded Federal action and prosecution of the police murderer of St. Claire Pressley, Negro hero and war veteran, killed in Johnsonville, S. C., Nov. 17. 12-3-45

Pressley just discharged, stepped off the train in Johnsonville on his way home to nearby Hemingway, S. C. He was immediately arrested on suspicion of implication in a minor disturbance which had occurred several days previously. A policeman marched him down the street with a gun in his ribs. Pressley offered no resistance. Suddenly, the officer pulled the trigger, killed Pressley.

It has been reported that upon complaint of James M. Hinton, South Carolina president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the officer has been suspended. The punishment for wilful murder in South Carolina is electrocution—not suspension from the police force.

"This is the fourth case in the last three months in which local police authorities in Florida and South Carolina have been directly involved in the lynching or lynch-murder of Negroes," Mr. Marcantonio told the Attorney General in his wire. "These cases all come under federal jurisdiction and are punishable under the civil rights law as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court in the Screws case." 12-3-45

The other three cases to which Mr. Marcantonio referred are those of War Veteran Moses Greene, wantonly murdered near Ellenton, S. C., on Sept. 9, by two sheriff's officers; War Veteran Sam McFadden, lynched in Suwanee County, Fla., Oct. 21, by a gang which included two police officers; and Jesse James Payne, lynched at Madison, Fla., Oct. 11.

43c-1945 South Carolina

UNCOVER LYNCHING OF CAROLINA NEGRO

Officials of Byrnes' State Conceal Month-Old Killing

Daily Worker 4Bc New York, N.Y.

By RICHARD SHANNON

ELLENTON, S. C., Oct. 26.—South Carolina, home of Secretary of State Jimmie Byrnes who prattles about "democracy" in Bulgaria, has lynched an unoffending Negro farmer. This brings to two the number of known lynchings in Dixie during 1945. Details of the South Carolina lynching, including the first name of the victim and the names of the slayer and his possible accomplices, are still incomplete. But this correspondent was able to learn that the murdered man was a Negro named Singleton, who farmed in Barnwell County, 10 miles from this little town, and whose death in late September has not before been reported in the press.

[James Hinton, head of the South Carolina National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, with headquarters at Columbia, S. C., said in a telephone conversation with the Daily Worker yesterday that, "Yes, the story is true." He added that the NAACP had entered the case immediately upon being informed of the killing by the farmer's relatives. 10-27-45

[The Daily Worker, in the meantime, phoned Sheriff John E. Steed at Ellenton, Barnwell County, S. C., but was unable to make contact with him. A call directly to his home at 7:30 a.m. Friday brought information from someone who said she was Mrs. Steed that the sheriff had been "out in the woods" since early morning.]

According to the best information available, Singleton was driven from Ellenton, in adjoining Aiken County, by a still unnamed Aiken County policeman. When the two reached Singleton's farm, the farmer got out of the truck, stepped into the yard and was then shot without warning by the policeman. No words had passed between the two, so this correspondent was told, and the policeman had no cause to shoot the man.

No action has been taken by South Carolina officials to arrest and prosecute the murderer, but the South Carolina National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, cooperating with NAACP Washington office, is said to be investigating the case.

Previously it had been thought that the mob slaying of Jesse James Payne, 30-year-old Madison, Fla., Negro, on Oct. 18, had been the first lynching of 1945. The International Labor Defense in New York has offered a reward of $500 for apprehension of Payne's slayers, and Madison State Attorney A. K. Black has promised an investigation of the lynching.

Punish the Lynchers

SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES F. BYRNES is no doubt so engrossed in his crusade for democracy in the Balkans that he has lost touch with developments in his own county in South Carolina. 11-14-45

In any event, he has not applied his fine moral fervor to a denunciation of the police officials who murdered a 51-year-old farmer called Moses Greene in Aiken County.

And the nation's great newspapers, so concerned with spreading freedom of the press to the far corners of the earth, have suppressed any news about this lynching. The Daily Worker alone has told the story from the beginning. Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y.

But the plain fact of the matter is that a new form of lynching, murder by police officials on the pretext that their victims are trying to escape, has become a national disgrace. In the last few weeks, three Negroes have been killed in this fashion, two in Florida and one in South Carolina.

If the men in high places in the government and in Congress who like to lecture the Soviet Union about democracy and international morality are indifferent to this menace of lynching, the people of America cannot afford to be.

The daughter of the murdered farmer in South Carolina has identified the man who killed him as Deputy Sheriff John Stephens and his accomplice as Deputy Sheriff Sam Low.

The Department of Justice must be pressured into entering Aiken County and using its full powers under the civil rights statute to bring these men to trial.

And the Congress of the United States must hear an overwhelming demand for passage of anti-lynching legislation.

Daughter of Lynch Victim In S. Carolina Names Killers

Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y. 11-10-45

Special to the Daily Worker

ELLENTON, S. C., Nov. 9.—Aiken County officers John Stephen and Sam Low were today identified by the Daily Worker as the lynchers of Moses Green, 51-year-old Barnwell County Negro farmer and World War I veteran, whose name had previously been thought to be Singleton. The lynching took place near here last Sept. 8.

Stephen shot Green as he started to get out of his truck, and Low was present as an accomplice, according to a letter sent to a Southern correspondent of this paper by the lynched man's married daughter, 24-year-old Mrs. Beatrice G. Singleton of Philadelphia.

"My father was brutally shot and killed in his yard . . ." Mrs. Singleton said in the letter, which is in possession of this correspondent. Copies of the letter are being sent by the Daily Worker to the civil liberties division of the U. S. Department of Justice and to South Carolina Gov. Ransome J. Williams to speed an investigation which the Governor has promised.

"There were two police, namely, Mr. Sam Low and John Stephen," Mrs. Singleton wrote, naming the lynchers. "The latter did the shooting. No action has been taken by South Carolina officials. I went to a lawyer myself in Aiken, S. C., and he refused to take the case. Said 'it was useless and a waste of time.'

"The police are still on duty and never were arrested."

Mrs. Singleton related in her letter that her father "was driven from the little town of Ellenton, S. C., 10 miles to where he lived in Barnwell County. The police were from Aiken County." 11-10-45

"When he got to the house and cut off the ignition and put one foot on the ground, the police started shooting without any warning or any words whatever.

"He died immediately without uttering any words."

Aiken County Sheriff Jeff Black admitted on a long-distance conversation with the Daily Worker on Nov. 2 that one of his deputies whom he failed to name had "killed a n----r farmer" in September. The sheriff, correctly naming the victim as Moses Green, claimed the colored man had been about to shoot the deputy. The name of the victim was originally given as Singleton to the Daily Worker by South Carolina "grapevine" sources who risked lynching themselves by revealing the brutal murder.

Mrs. Singleton's letter clearly gives the lie to the sheriff's claim that Green "started to shoot first"—an old alibi for justifying the shooting of any Negro by any plug-ugly deputy anywhere in Dixie.

The letter shows that Green was a responsible husband and father who worked hard to support his wife and three little children.

'I don't know of anything they had against my father," Mrs. Singleton said, "and I can't understand why they did it. He had lived in the vicinity all of his life and was never known to have had any trouble with anybody."

"He had farmed in Barnwell County for approximately 25 years since he was discharged from the Army in 1919 after World War I."

Mrs. Singleton has promised full cooperation in uncovering additional facts on the background of the lynch murder. Besides Mrs. Singleton, Green is survived by his widow, Mrs. Janie Low Green, of Ellenton, and the three younger children, Jonathan, 8; Ernestine, 6, and Edna Mae, 4.

S. C. Sheriff Admits Murder Of Negro Farmer

The Chicago Defender

ELLENTON, S. C. — (ANP) — The lynch-murder of a Negro farmer in or near this area was admitted here last week by Sheriff Jeff Black.

He said the dead man's name was "Mose Green," but contents of a letter written by Miss Beatrice Singleton to relatives at Savannah, Ga., claim the murdered farmer was named Singleton, her father.

Chicago, Illinois

The letter, which was turned over to James Hinton, president of the South Carolina NAACP, said that police from here, the seat of Aiken county, shot her father as he turned to walk into his house some time in September. Black admits that "Mose Green" was shot by one of his deputies about that time, but contends that the dead Negro farmer "lived in Barnwell, just over the Aiken county line." 11-17-45

Both Hinton and John McCray, editor of the Columbia, S. C., Lighthouse and Informer, expressed the belief that Black was undoubtedly using his "Mose Green" tale to cover up the willful murder of Singleton.

All available facts have been turned over to Gov. Ransome J. Williams for investigation, and steps are being taken to enlist the aid of Atty. Gen. Tom Clark to bring the lynch-murderers to justice.

Tells of Father's Lynch-Murder: Mrs. Beatrice Singleton, third from left, tells reporters the details of the death of her father, Moses Greene, South Carolina Negro farmer, at the hands of a sheriff's deputy. The interview took place at the home of Walter Lowenfels, second from left, Philadelphia correspondent of the Daily Worker. —Peace photo

Says Negro Farmer Was Shot By Deputy

The Informer Houston Texas

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Probe Cop Slaying Of 200-Pound Man In South Carolina

N.Y. Amsterdam News

FLORENCE, S.C. (ANP)—An investigation into the fatal shooting to death of Moses Williams of Ozita, Fla., in the city jail by three officers was indicated by organizational leaders Tuesday.

Williams, 42 years old, weighing 200 pounds and six feet, one inch tall, was arrested Monday night on the city's outskirts. Tuesday morning, Sheriff Dan M. Clarke said, Frank Pettigrew, magistrate's constable, Deputy Sheriff Truluck and S. P. Wright, fingerprint expert, engaged the prisoner in a furious fight as the three sought to interview him in his cell. The officers report that Williams attacked them. Pettigrew shot him in the stomach, and when this failed to stop the man, they said, Truluck shot him above the heart.

At one stage of the alleged fight, all four men battled on the floor, officers said. 7-18-45

be a member of the Ellenton police department or of the Aiken County sheriff's office. 11-4-45

James Hinton, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in South Carolina told The Worker that Aiken County, as far as Negroes are concerned, is "the worst" in that state. 11-4-45

Byrnes was first "elected" to Congress—by two percent of the voting population—from the district which embraces Aiken County.

The fact that the Singleton lynching was revealed as just a piece of bad news in a letter to a relative, instead of being given by the daughter to the police, shows to what extent the Negro people of that area expect to receive justice.

Gov. Williams, in the meantime, is being urged to speed up investigation into the rape-murder of 16-

Daughter Names Green's Killers

People's Voice N.Y.

ELLENTOWN, SC—Two officers of Aiken County have been identified as the killers of Moses Green, 51-year-old farmer who was shot to death in Barnwell County on September 8, according to an exclusive story in the "Daily Worker" this week. The men were named by Green's daughter Mrs. Beatrice G. Singleton, now a resident of Philadelphia.

They are John Stephen and Sam Low, both officers of the police department. Green was originally reported as a Mr. Singleton, when his body was found. The mix-up in names was probably caused by the daughter's married name. She said that her father was brutally shot and killed in his yard, in a letter in possession of the "Worker." 11-17-45

Aiken County Sheriff Jeff Black admitted in a telephone call with the "Daily Worker" last week that one of his deputies had killed a "nigger farmer" in September, and said the man's name was Moses Green. He said the man had attempted to shoot the deputy. N.Y.

Byrnes' Home District Is Scene of Lynchina

The Worker

By EUGENE GORDON

The police killing of a Negro farmer named Singleton near Ellenton, S. C., late in September, is "being investigated," according to Gov. Ransome J. Williams, following exposure Oct. 28 by the Daily Worker.

This lynching in the home state of Secretary of State James Byrnes, who says he wants to see the rights of minorities in Bulgaria and Rumania safeguarded, was unreported until the Daily Worker exposed the facts.

Details, including those of the victim's first name, the names of the lynchers, and circumstances surrounding the affair, are still undetermined. N.Y.

The Singleton lynching is the second known to have occurred in 1945. The earlier one was that of Jesse Paine, in Florida.

A letter from a daughter of the murdered man to Mrs. Carrie Days, a cousin, in Savannah, Ga., declares that Singleton was driven "all the way from Ellenton (10 miles) and killed in his yard." The letter said that the farmer had just stepped from the truck when "the man started shooting."

"The man" in the case is said to

year-old Lila Belle Carter, last Aug. 15, allegedly by a white man. The police so far have made no effort to apprehend the murderer, though they arrested the girl's father for "threatening" the suspect.

Daughter Describes S. C. Lynching

Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y.

By EUGENE GORDON

The police killing of an Ellenton, S. C., Negro farmer named Singleton late in September, as exclusively reported in last Saturday's Daily Worker, was confirmed in a letter from Miss Beatrice Singleton, a daughter.

Singleton's first name has still not been learned. 11-1-45

"My father was driven all the way from Ellenton (10 miles)," the letter declares, "and killed in his yard."

A copy of this letter, written to Mrs. Carrie Days, a cousin, in Savannah, Ga., arrived yesterday by way of the South Carolina National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mrs. Day had turned it over to the NAACP.

GOV. WILLIAMS

James Hinton, NAACP president in South Carolina, told the Daily Worker by phone yesterday that all available facts in the case had been handed to Gov. Ransome J. Williams, who has promised to investigate.

The white man or men who killed Singleton, according to reports, were from Aiken County. Secretary of State James Byrnes, who wishes fair play and democracy for minorities in Bulgaria and Romania, also is from Aiken County. There is no report of his having interested himself in this case. 11-1-45

LETTER CONFIRMS KILLING

That part of Miss Singleton's letter which relates to the killing reads:

"My father was driven all the way from Ellenton (10 miles) and killed in his yard. When he got there and got out of truck the man started shooting. They never changed words, and what about nobody knows. The police was from Ellenton and that is in Aiken County. We live in Barnwell County."

Hinton told the Daily Worker that investigation shows "the man" referred to in the letter to have been somebody connected either with the sheriff's office or the police department. The Singleton farm, he said, is just across the Aiken County border. 11-1-45

There is no information as to why the sheriff or members of the police department were riding in the truck, or whether or not the truck belonged to the Negro farmer. The Daily Worker intends to get that and all other information possible.

'Hang Them' Is Cry of Daughter Of Negro Farmer Lynched in S. C.

New York, N.Y.

Daily Worker

By EUGENE GORDON

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 12—"The man who killed my father ought to be hanged," declared Beatrice Singleton daughter of the 51-year-old Negro farmer, Moses Greene, who was murdered by Ellenton, S. C., police on Sept. 8.

Mrs. Singleton, interviewed at her home here today, said:

"If only I could do something about it! And why shouldn't the County of Aiken be made to care for those three children?"

She is certain that Aiken, home county of Secretary of State James Byrnes, will do nothing for the children or anything to their father's murderer. The man was buried without an inquest. Nobody came to see him after he had been shot—doctor or sheriff. "Nobody," she said, "except the undertaker."

The three children referred to are Joe Nathan, 7; Ernestine, 6; and Edna Mae, 4, offspring of Moses Greene's second marriage. Mrs. Singleton, 24, is the only child by the first wife, who died in 1936.

11-13-45

ADMITTED KILLING

Sheriff Jeff Black, quizzed by phone by the Daily Worker two weeks ago, admitted that one of his deputies had killed "a n——r farmer named Mose Greene." Mrs. Singleton identified the killer as Deputy Sheriff Johnny Stephens, and his accomplice as Deputy Sheriff Sam Low.

Henry W. Singleton, 25, her husband, is a private in the United States Army in the South Pacific. She works in a college fraternity house here. Until her father's death she worked in the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

Mrs. Singleton has lived here for about a year. "I'll be glad," she said, "to say or do anything that'll help bring my father's murderer to the gallows."

"Yes, I know who Jimmy Byrnes is," she said, when reminded of his professed interest in democratic rights for Bulgarians and Romanians. "He didn't do anything for us when he was Governor so I know he won't do anything for us now."

Mrs. Singleton on Sept. 9 received from Ellenton a wire reading: "Your father is dead. Come at once." It was signed Janie Lou Greene, her stepmother. She arrived in time for the funeral services and the burial. She talked with witnesses of the murder.

STORY OF MURDER

Moses Green and a friend, George Golphin, had been to Augusta, Ga., for the usual Saturday buying. They came back through Ellenton, S.C., which is 10 miles from the Greene place. They stopped for a few minutes in Ellenton, then headed the small Ford truck toward home. They had done the same thing hundreds of times before. Greene was driving.

11-13-45

"When they got outside of Ellenton they noticed they were being followed by a car. They thought the car wanted to pass,

MOSES GREENE
Victim of Lynch-Murder

but when they slowed down or stopped, so it could get by, the car behind slowed down or stopped, too."

They couldn't figure it out. Then they heard shots whizzing past their heads. They surmised it was the sheriff. Since he made no effort to overtake them, however, they kept on going—until the right rear tire was punctured by a bullet. The truck limped on slowly until it reached the Green farmyard.

"The sheriff's car was following the truck so close when it came into the yard that my stepmother thought it was just one car. All she could see were the headlights. My father stepped out of the truck on the left-hand side, and just as he put his left foot on the ground Stephens shot him."

Mrs. Greene opened the door and saw Stephens standing over her husband, the pistol pointed at Golphin. Golphin still sat in the truck.

"He had shot my father three or four times. I guess if Mr. Golphin had said anything they'd have shot him, too."

Mrs. Green, in the doorway, screamed and ran to her dying husband. The deputy sheriffs drove off, ignoring her. Young Wallace Cassels, son of the Ellenton undertaker, and Willie Turner, a Negro youth, drove into the yard later that night. The undertaker's son told Mrs. Green that his father didn't like to think of Mose Green's lying all night dead in his own yard. They took the body away.

Mrs. Singleton figures that the killers probably boasted of what they had done. That was how the undertaker, in her opinion, heard about it. She does not believe he sent for the body our of friendliness. She is mistrustful and suspicious of all white people in that community.

COULDN'T GET LAWYER

She, her stepmother, an uncle and an aunt went to Aiken, S.C., on the following Tuesday and tried to engage Henry Busbe, a white lawyer.

"I said: 'I'm the daughter of Moses Green, who was killed Saturday night. I would like to get you to help me do something about it. Here's his widow. She's got three little children.'

"He said he didn't think he could take the case. He said they'd lie and get out of it. Then he turned away from me, saying his secretary was typing some dictation and wanted to see him."

"Did you see Stephens yourself when you were down there, Mrs. Singleton?"

"Yes. I drove to Ellenton in the truck with a friend one day, and when we stopped at a gasoline filling station I saw Deputy Sheriff Johnny Stephens peeping out of the window at us. He must have recognized the truck."

George Golphin, in the meantime,

MRS. BEATRICE SINGLETON
Daughter of Victim

Mrs. Singleton declares, is in constant danger of his life. He saw the killing. He knows the whole story. He is afraid to speak, even to his friends. She hopes he will be able to come and live with his sister in Camden, N.J. He has a wife and five children.

"My father fought in the first World War" Mrs. Singleton said. "My husband fought in this one, against the Nazis."

Officer Who Slew Soldier Reported Fired From Job

The Journal and Guide

Louisville Kentucky

HEMINGWAY, S. C.—(ANP)—Town officer W. Parrot, who shot to death Pfc. St. Clair Pressley in what witnesses testified as "cold blood," has been summarily dismissed, NAACP officials here said Monday.

12-1-45

George A. Melvin, president of the Hemingway NAACP branch said his investigation of rumors to this effect, practically verified the belief, adding that an unusuel amount of indignation against Parrott from white citizens had not only forced his dismissal, but subsequent moving out of town.

PARROT EXONERATED

Meanwhile, J. W. Pressley, large successful farmer near here and father of the ex-soldier who had been honorably discharged less than one week when slain, said a warrant charging Parrot with murder would be drawn, either by the circuit solicitor or himself. A coroner's jury exonerated Parrot Tuesday night at an inquest attended by the largest gathering in the history of the town.

12-1-45

Funeral services for Pressley, who had seen four years of warfare in both Europe and the Pacific in his 21 years, were conducted Thursday from the Friendship Methodist Church at Nesmith. Witnesses said Parrot shot him while he stood with both hands akimbo. The officer's charge that the youth pulled a knife was disputed by colored and white persons who witnessed the incident two Saturday nights ago, in Johnsonville, five miles north of here.

43c-1945

Tennessee

Police Slaying Stirs Tennessee Town

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (ANP) —The shooting of a young colored man who merely ran when called by a policeman last week stirred Chattanoogans to demand immediate dismissal action by Chief of Police Edmondson.

Edward Mays, 25, died at a local hospital a few hours after he had been shot by T. L. Seitz, city officer, July 16. Seitz is said to have been called to investigate an automobile prowler, and when Mays came by he ordered him to stop. Mays began to run with Policeman Seitz pursuing around four or five blocks. The officer overtook Mays and shot him once. There was no claim that May resisted the officer or threatened him. His only mistake was that he ran when called. Citizens asked Seitz's dismissal for fear he will be too handy with his gun again."

7-28-45

43c-1945

Tennessee

Officer Faces Murder Charge

Pittsburgh Courier

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Chattanooga courts have on record now the first murder warrant for a white man sworn out by a Negro. The charge was sworn out by Willie Mays against Policeman T. Lloyd Seitz, who is accused of having shot and killed Edward Mays, July 23, on a downtown Chattanooga Street. The murdered man is the brother of Willie Mays.

Seitz, who was immediately suspended following the shooting, claimed that he had been trying to arrest Mays whom he believed to have been prowling in cars parked on a downtown street. According to the officer, he shot the man after he had ordered the suspect to halt. Mays continued running, and the policeman shot after him to stop him—without intent to kill, he claims.

The police officer is now being held for grand jury investigation under $2,000 bail.

8-4-45

Lawyers discussing the case, including George W. Chamlee, noted for his championship of Negroes, declare that to their knowledge the warrant sworn out by Mays marks the first time in the city's courts that a Negro has prosecuted a white man for murder.

GI Killed in Va.

Afro-American in Alleged Attack

9-8-45

PETERSBURG, Va.—Cpl. Herbert L. Burton, 18, of 6442 Langley Ave., Chicago, assigned to Camp Lee, was shot fatally Saturday night by a Petersburg policeman when surprised in an alleged attempted attack on a local girl.

Military policemen said they surprised Corporal Burton and two other soldiers in the act when they arrived at the corner of Pegram and Lee Sts. after neighbors, alarmed by the girl's screams, summoned military and civilian police.

Corporal Burton, attacked to a unit of the training group of the ASFTC at Camp Lee, was shot astride a fence near the scene, as he and the other men attempted to flee, according to military police, who made their report at Camp Lee. 9-8-45

Officers See Struggle

The officers reported that they found the soldiers struggling with the girl who was screaming hysterically. They flee over the fence, and refused to halt when ordered to do so.

Officer Bernard Ray of the local police force then fired at Burton as he sought to clear the fence. He was later pronounced dead by Coroner W. L. Barnes and the body turned over to the ASF Regional Hospital.

The soldier's next of kin has been notified, public relations officers at Camp Lee reported, and the other two men are still being sought by police. Military authorities refused to release the girl's name to avoid causing her embarrasment.

Silas Rogers'

The Journal and Guide Norfolk Virginia

Death Sentence Commuted

RICHMOND, Va.—Following a dramatic plea for a pardon made in his behalf before the State Pardon Board on Sept. 17, Silas Rogers, young New York Negro, convicted on Jan. 21, 1944, in the Petersburg Hustings Court and sentenced to die for the murder of one of that city's police officers, had his sentence commuted to life imprisonment by the board Saturday. 10-20-45

The board's decision was sent to W. Frank Smythe, penitentiary superintendent who will remove the prisoner from death row to a cell in the regular prison block. Rogers was to have died in the electric chair Friday.

Although the board entered no written opinion in the case, Chairman William S. Mecham released a letter to counsel for Rogers in which he said that the death sentence was commuted to imprisonment after "mature consideration of the record, petition and the investigations conducted by the board."

Rogers was convicted of the slaying of Patrolman Robert B. Hatchell after a vigorous defense put up by his counsel with funds amounting to $2,000 or more contributed by Petersburg Negro citizens, in spite of the fact that the defendant, when arrested was a perfect stranger in that city. 10-20-45

Governor Darden twice granted a stay of execution to the condemned man and in June the pardon board granted a reprieve until Oct. 19.

While Rogers is not eligible for parole, he may from time to time renew a petition for pardon.

The board it is stated, before handing down a decision on the case Saturday, conducted its own investigation.

OFFICER SHOT

Officer Hatcher was shot when he and another officer pursued two colored men driving an automobile stolen in Raleigh, N. C. The car was wrecked near Petersburg Hospital and Officer Hatcher pursued the alleged escaping driver.

Shots were heard and the patrolman's body was found lying between the hospital and some nearby hedges. Six witnesses at the trial identified Rogers as the driver of the car. Two of them, soldiers AWOL, who testified that they had driven from Raleigh with the driver of the car, at first failed to identify him, but later picked Rogers out as the man with whom they had ridden.

DEFENSE PLEA 10-20-45

Defense attorneys, contending that the defendant was not the driver of the car, maintained that he had arrived in the city "blind baggage" by via of the Silver Meteor on the morning of the murder. After leaving the train he said he walked to the edge of the town and started to hitch hike a ride toward Appomattox bridge where he was arrested an hour after Officer Hatchell was slain.

Following his conviction, Rogers' counsel appealed to the Supreme Court of Appeals which affirmed the decision.

At the hearing of the board defense council pointed out that a Deisel supervisor who had been aboard the train on the murder, had identified Rogers as a hobo on the train.

COUNSEL'S CONTENTION

Counsel contended that if Rogers were aboard the train he could not have been the murderer since the Commonwealth's theory of the homicide depended upon Rogers' identification as the driver of the stolen car.

At the hearing 10-20-45 before the State Parole Board, the prosecution contended that conflicting evidence could be explained by the fact that the car involved in the crime had been stolen by two soldiers, and that Rogers actually had come to Petersburg aboard the Silver Meteor but had been picked up by the two soldiers. Commonwealth's Attorney Pollard said there was no evidence against the soldiers in connection with the theft.

POLICE DISCRIMINATION

North West Tribune

By E. I. R.

The Interracial Action Committee in seeking a probe of the killing of Eugene Moszee, service station operator, states:

"At the same time it is well known that the Seattle police force has a long record of discrimination against Negro people of Seattle." Seattle Wash.

We make no brief for the Seattle police department, but there are thousands of Negro law-abiding citizens who will refute that statement. It may fit a few individuals with whom we have no acquaintance or whose acts are unknown to us. In the main, the Seattle police department is freer from discrimination than any city in the United States. For years it has borne that reputation. So much so, that it has become the Mecca for a class of citizens we do not cherish. 11-28-45

As a business man for fifteen years, and for a long time head of the largest Negro organization in the Northwest, we were forced not from choice but from necessity to frequent the police department because of complaints. During all of that time, and to this day, more than 20 years, only four times have we charged a police officer with discrimination because of race. We named and published the officers charged and the department, convinced, acted quickly to halt it, and to our satisfaction in each case. Four individual cases of discrimination in 20 years in a department officered by five or six hundred men is a very good record. 11-28-45

No police chief now or since is more widely known among Negroes here than Police Chief Herbert D. Kimsey. Not a reputable citizen will accuse him of condoning discrimination.

Negroes of Seattle must not be led to believe the police department is their enemy. We need the police and we should regard them as friends rather than enemies. We need police protection as much as other citizens of Seattle. Criminals know no race. Too, there are two very fine officers, Patrolman Carl Norris and Patrolman Claude Norris, members of our own race. A blanket charge of discrimination against the department would per se include them. Are they, too, guilty?

The Northwest Enterprise on several occasions has taken issue with the police department, but only once under a former chief has the charge been "discrimination."

The present chief of police, Herbert D. Kimsey, has scrupulously sought to free his department of the charge of discrimination. For God's sake do not let us array ourselves against the entire police department in any effort to correct our grievances.

Discrimination is as odious to us as to any living Negro, but we will make no attempt to correct the evil by force, or involve anyone when force is used.

When the end comes, if it ever does come, it will come by reason, not otherwise.

TWO UNNECESSARY DEATHS

Northwest Enterprise

By E. I. R.

When the curtain fell on the pistol battle between the police and Eugene Moszee Friday morning, Nov. 16, confirming the death of Patrolman Fred Hull, Eugene Moszee, filling station operator, and wounding Patrolman Ralph Osborne, the disclosure revealed: Two Unnecessary Deaths. Seattle, Wash.

The whistle for which two lives were paid was not worth the price. At best, the disturbance was nothing more than a misdemeanor, not committed in the presence of officers. 11-28-45

Following a disturbance in a tavern, the police were called and the address of Moszee, filling station operator, 19th and Madison, was given.

Throwing their greatest asset, caution, out of their car window, the officers drove to the station. There they requested Moszee to open up. Moszee replied, "You can't come in here without a search warrant. If you come in here, you'll be sorry. I'm warning you, don't come in here."

Moszee was in his own place of business, presumably armed, because of his warning. The warning given was equivalent to "caution, look out, seek shelter."

Though 20 years in service, caution, the chief asset of any officer, had already been thrown out of the window. Moszee's warning was not the cry of wolf.

Just a bit of that caution would have left Patrolman Fred Hull to welcome two little kiddies, scarcely out of arms, and to cherish a wife who must bear her burden alone; Patrolman Ralph L. Osborne would not be nursing a foot wound, and Eugene Moszee's dream of a chain of filling stations would have remained unshattered and no bitterness left in the heart of a surviving cousin.

EUGENE MOSZEE 11-28-45

Said to have operated filling stations at his home in Texas, Eugene Moszee came to Seattle five years ago and began the operation of the station, which is now his monument. Moszee dreamed of a chain of filling stations. He had the reputation of being a hard worker. We understand he was purchasing the property adjacent to his station.

For several years he has been known as a foe of discrimination, and fought it like a demon, with or without aid. As such he was frequently called an iconoclast, a one-man crusader, a John Brown against discrimination wherever he found it. We regret a police record clouds his life in Seattle. None names him a convict.

Moszee died in a gun battle with police, his mission unfulfilled. As laudable as it may appear, his methods brought his race more harm than good.

Moszee's methods do not point the way.

43d-1945

Alabama

Soldier Slain By Guard At Fort McPherson

Atl. 8-20-45 Defender

ATLANTA, (ANP) — A Negro soldier, listed as Robert L. Davis, of Birmingham, was shot to death by a white guard at Fort McPherson last week when he attempted to escape from the post hospital, according to the army post's public relations officer. 900

The soldier previously had been arrested by a civilian Atlanta policeman and booked on a drunk and disorderly conduct charge. The officer said the soldier attempted to resist arrest by kicking him. The soldier was overpowered with the policeman's blackjack. 8-18-45

Davis was turned over to military authorities and taken to Fort McPherson's post hospital for treatment. While army doctors were dressing his cuts, the soldier allegedly attempted to escape. A guard on duty was said to have ordered him to stop three times, then fired.

Negro Knifer Shot To Death

The Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala.

Stabs Customer In Seed Store And Manager Kills Him

A negro identified as Cleophus Means was shot to death Saturday night by L. O. Tomlin, manager of the Birdseye Seed Store on Coosa Street, after the former, according to information assembled by the police, stabbed one of Mr. Tomlin's customers with an Army knife.

The negro wore an Army uniform and it was learned after his death that he had been discharged Saturday.

According to witnesses questioned by police investigators, Means entered the seed store and inquired of Perry Cumbie, 21 Michigan Avenue, who with his wife was making a purchase:

"Say, buddie, do you know where I can find me a gal?"

Mr. Cumbie was said to have walked away without answering, whereupon the negro, police were told, drew a knife with a six-inch blade and stabbed Woodrow Price, a mechanic of 418 Martha Street, behind his left ear. 11-19-45

Mr. Tomlin pursued the negro who then left the store, following him into the Silver Moon Cafe nearby. The ex-soldier was said to have told Mr. Tomlin he would cut him "into sausage meat," drawing his knife. With that, police were told, Mr. Tomlin drew a pistol and shot the negro six times, killing him instantly. He was questioned by police but was not detained.

At St. Margaret's Hospital where he was taken for treatment, Mr. Price said last night he had never seen his attacker before. "I tried to knock him off," he declared, "but he was too big and heavy for me. Things happened so fast I don't remember much about it."

Mr. Cumbie said the negro appeared to be under the influence of liquor. 11-19-45

43d-1945

Seaman Is Acquitted For Killing Negro Boy

The Birmingham News
Birmingham, Alabama

MIAMI, Fla., Nov. 12 —(AP)— A Federal Court jury has acquitted a Merchant Marine chief engineer who killed a Negro messboy on the high seas. 11-12-45

The acquittal ended nearly nine months of imprisonment for 45-year-old Daniel H. Hawthorn of Galveston, Tex., who said after gaining his freedom:

"Now I'm going to have some fun."

The Negro, Willard Major, was killed last Dec. 17 as the Liberty ship William M. Eastman ploughed the Red Sea.

The jury deliberated only seven minutes. Tears streamed down the chief engineer's face when the verdict was read in the hushed courtroom.

Hawthorn testified he shot the messboy in self-defense because he was afraid of him.

He said he was in the engine room consulting with his second assistant engineer when Major began to descend the stairs.

"Major stumbled at the foot of the stairs and as he came up he made a lunge for me," the defendant said.

"I fired four times in rapid succession. Major began to back away, his hands fell to his side, and a knife dropped on the floor.

"I looked back when I got almost to the top of the stairs and Major still had not fallen," he added.

~~Local~~ General

43d-1945

Georgia

Soldier Slain by Ft. McPherson Guard

The Chicago Defender
Kansas City, Mo.

Say GI Tried to Escape Hospital

ATLANTA—(ANP)—A Negro soldier, listed as Robert L. Davis, of Birmingham, was shot to death by a white guard at Fort McPherson last week when he attempted to escape from the post hospital, according to the army post's public relations officer.

The soldier previously had been arrested by a civilan Atlanta policeman and booked on drunk and disorderly conduct in church. The officer said the soldier attemped to resist arrest by kicking him. The soldier was overpowered with the policeman's blackjack. 8-24-45

The report continued that Davis was turned over to military authorities and taken to fort McPherson's post hospital for treatment. While army doctors were dressing his cuts, the soldier allegedly attempted to escape. A guard on duty wass aid to have ordered him to stop three times, then fired, but the soldier kept running. Davis was wounded in the arm with the first shot the relation officers said. The guard allegedly ordered him to stop three times more but the soldier reportedly continued running, the guard fired again. This time the soldier fell and died immediately.

Several white witnesses present verified the guard's report that Davis was shot in accordance with military orders.

Murder On Bus Evokes Grave Concern Here

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
11-30-45

Witnesses Claim Crime Entirely Unwarranted

Citizens, throughout the city expressed grave concern, Thursday, over the unwarranted murder of Phinizee Summerour, of 50 Bell Street, S. E., by Arthur Frieberg white, of 501 Boulevard N. E., Wednesday night, as he stepped on the treadle to leave the Pine-Forrest bus, at the corner of Bedford Place and Angier Avenue, N. E.

A Citizens Committee met Thursday and discussed the crime in the light of conflicting newspaper accounts. Counsel was retained to make a thorough investigation of the case.

HEARING SET FOR 4:30 TODAY

According to latest reports from the Atlanta Police Department, Frieberg was detained at the Police Station on a charge of "disorderly conduct," but was later released on "copy" to appear for the hearing in Recorder's Court, at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon.

The coroner's inquest will be conducted this morning at 10 o'clock, at Hanley's Funeral Home on Bell Street. 11-30-45

Reports from eye-witnesses tend to conflict sharply with earlier reports of the crime, pointing almost conclusively to a "plain" case of murder.

Summerour was employed by the American Broadcasting Company and the officials at Station WAGA made it clear that he was a fine young man and was well thought of by the entire staff.

Frieberg, it is reported, is employed by the United States Post Office, either in the capacity of substitute carrier or clerk.

Man Bound Over For Grand Jury For Slaying On Bus

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World.
12-1-45

After a lengthy hearing which lasted more than three hours, Arthur Frieberg was bound over for Grand Jury investigation by Judge A. W. Callaway in Recorder's Court, Friday, in connection with the slaying of Phinazee Summerour, Wednesday night, as he was getting off the Pine-Forrest bus, at Angier Avenue and Bedford Place.

Judge Callaway ordered that Frieberg be held on a charge of manslaughter and his bond was set at $1000.

Attorney William Schley Howard, represented the State and in his final statement to Recorder Callaway said, "this is simply a case of cold blooded murder." On the basis of the evidence presented during the hearing, Attorney Howard requested that the defendant be held for Grand Jury investigation.

The defendant was represented by Attorney L. L. Henson, who asked that the case be dismissed as a "justifiable homicide."

RELEASE ON "COPY" UNPRECEDENTED

Frieberg was originally booked on a charge of "disorderly conduct," and was released by the Atlanta Police Department on "copy." Attorney Howard stated that he had been practicing law for many years and that this was the first time he had heard of a man being released on "copy after having taken the life of another.

Rather significant was the fact that none of the witnesses in the case, policemen included, offered testimony corroborating the statement published in an Atlanta daily Thursday morning, to the effect that an open knife was found in a pocket of the deceased. To the contrary, the long string of witnesses, both for the State and for the defense testified that they did not see the deceased with any kind of weapon.

ARGUMENT STARTED OVER SMOKING

It was clearly established that the shooting resulted from an argument over smoking. The witnesses for the defense claimed that the man who was actually smoking and who really started the argument, later sat down, and that the deceased was shot when he reached under the left side of his coat on leaving the bus.

Witnesse for the State stated that few words, if any, transpired between Frieberg and the deceased.

They denied having heard the deceased curse the defendant and said that Summerour was shot as he stepped on the treadle to leave the bus. 12-1-45

A large number of officials of Radio Station WAGA, where the deceased was employed as a porter were present and stated that his character was good.

knife which provoked Frieberg to shoot and kill him.

It is reported that a witness who was riding the bus stated that the deceased and Frieberg argued about the smoking for a while, then stopped. When the bus arrived at Bedford Place and Angier Avenue the dead man got up to get off and was standing at the door when Frieberg shot him, and as the door opened the deceased fell out on the street. 11-29-43

No knife was found on the dead man and there was no report of one being found on or near the scene; the only items found were two keys and a part of a quart of whiskey, according to the record.

The police revealed that Frieberg had been issued a permit to carry concealed weapons.

The coroner was notified and the inquest is set for Friday morning at 10 o'clock. Frieberg was booked on disorderly conduct and murder. The case is set for Friday, 4:30 p. m. in Recorder's Court.

The body is at Hanley's Funeral Home on Bell Street.

White Man Kills Negro On Pine-Forrest Bus

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
11-29-43

Phinizee Summerour, of 50 Bell Street, S. E. was shot and killed by a white man, Arthur Frieberg, 31, of 501 Boulevard, N. E. Apartment 4, Wednesday night about eight o'clock on a Pine-Forrest bus at Bedford Place and Angier Avenue.

According to police records, Frieberg stated that the shooting grew out of a controversy over a colored passenger smoking on the bus and the fact that the deceased took up the argument and drew a

63

White Man Bound Over

Savannah (Ga.)
IN ATLANTA BUS SLAYING Tribune
12-13-45

Atlanta, (ANP) — Following a lengthy hearing in city recorder's court, Arthur Friedberg, white, was bound over to Fulton Grand jury last week in the bus slaying of Phinazee Summerour.

The slaying aroused action by the Atlanta branch of the NAACP, so tense was the feeling that followed the reportedly unwarranted slaying.

According to reports, Simmerour was shot as he started to leave the bus. An argument had ensued over the smoking by one Negro passenger of a cigar on the bus. No words had passed, however, for some time prior to the shooting. Friedberg claimed that he was cursed by the deceased.

Atlanta police were believed to have tried to cover up the shooting in the report made at headquarters. One white Atlanta daily published an account the morning after the shooting, quoting police as stating that a knife was found opened in a pocket of the deceased man's clothing. Witnesses failed to testify to this, however, at the recorder's court hearing. Fiedberg was released on a copy of charges after the slaying.

The Atlanta NAACP hired Atty. William Schley Howard, noted criminal lawyer, who deplored the release of the slayer on the copy of charges. So much pressure was put to the court that Judge A. W. Callaway ordered Friedberg held on a charge of manslaughter and his bond set at $1,000, pending action by the Fulton grand jury

43d-1945

Kentucky

Groom Slain Following Row With Trainer

The Courier Journal

Fayette Horseman Claims Self-Defense

Louisville, Kentucky
9-22-45

Lexington, Ky., Sept. 21 (AP)—William C. Moore, 70, veteran trainer and former driver and owner of trotting horses, was at liberty under $1,000 bond today on a charge of murder in connection with the fatal shooting of a Negro groom.

Sam Walker, about 50, the groom, was shot yesterday at the Lexington trotting track, where horses are being quartered for the forthcoming Lexington trots next week.

A police report quoted Moore as saying he acted in self-defense, obtaining a pistol from a satchel in one of the barns where he was working. According to the police report, he said he shot Walker as the Negro advanced on him with a pitchfork.

Stray Bullet Nicks Horse.

The two reportedly had engaged in an argument concerning a horse.

A stray bullet nicked and slightly injured a pacing horse, Symbol Allen, property of J. R. Youngblood, Tarboro, N. C.

The barn in which the shooting occurred is occupied almost entirely by the Standardbred horses of Eddie Havens, Pinehurst, N. C., employer of Moore.

A cash bond of $1,000 for Moore was supplied by R. C. Larkin, president of the Lexington Trots Breeders Association.

Groom Shot Twice.

Coroner J. Hervey Kerr said Walker had been shot twice, one bullet entering his lower lip and the other entering the back of his head. The Negro's home was at Piketon, Ohio.

Reputedly the best horse that Moore owned during his long career in the light-harness sport was the trotter Guy Scotland, which he himself drove to victory in the 1937 Walnut Hall Cup, one of the leading annual fixtures of the Lexington trots program.

43d-1945

~~Louisiana~~ Mississippi

Two Eyewitnesses See Louisianian Shot And Killed In Cold Blood

The Louisiana Weekly
New Orleans, Louisiana
9-22-45

Because he failed to answer "yes, sir" to a bus driver for Teche-Greyhound, Inc., Tom Jones Jr., youthful Louisiana passenger, was shot and killed in cold blood last week, while his hands were upraised, by a night watchman summoned to the scene by the driver while the latter stood by with a blackjack with which he had unsuccessfully tried to flog the youth.

The murder, which has since been described as one of the most dastardly deeds ever committed in that section, was disclosed to Daniel Byrd, executive secretary of the New Orleans branch of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, and the New Orleans Newspaper Council, last week by two eye witnesses, Albert Bell of 2530 Clio Street, and Miss Ruby Mae Williams of 3314 Fern Street, both of New Orleans, and both of whom filed affidavits. Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the NAACP, New York City, termed the episode "one of the most damnable things I ever heard of." 9-22-45

In his affidavit, Bell gave the bus driver's name as a Mr. "Dorsen" or "Dawson" and the night watchman's name as "Mack Donland" or Mack Donlan," and said that these are the names he was given on inquiry following the crime. In the sworn statement, Bell alleged that he was accompanied by his brother, Willie Bell, and two soldiers Saturday, Sept. 8, when he drove to the Teche-Greyhound bus station in Belmont, Miss., to meet Tom Jones Jr. and Miss Ruby Mae Williams, and that Willie, who first saw Tom standing near the bus, asked him why he was waiting, to which Tom replied, "For my luggage."

As the operator asked Jones if he was sure that his luggage was on the bus, Bell said Jones answered "yes" and the driver appeared vexed and said, "You are in Mississippi, not in New Orleans—my name is Mr. Dorsen (or Dawson)." Before Tom could answer, according to the information, the bus driver attempted to strike him with a flashlight, but Tom struck at him in self-defense. 9-22-45

Uttering a curse, Bell's statement continued, "Dorsen" or "Dawson" made a threat to kill Tom, after which he returned hurriedly with a blackjack and continued to strike at Tom who backed away. The driver then ran off and returned with a night watchman whom Bell said is Mack Donland (or Donlan). The watchman approached with a gun in his right hand and grabbed Tom in the collar with his left hand.

Bell also said the night watchman twice repeated the question, "N——r, what do you mean by hitting a white man?" as he shot Tom in the right side of the chest, under the arm, but he (Tom) made no attempt to defend himself. Bell stated that Jones was shot a third time and fell to the ground, while his right hand was still raised, his left hand holding the right side of his chest.

Bell also said that he and Miss Williams were forced away from the scene by Donland (or Donlan). However, he learned when the ambulance arrived that Jones was dead.

Miss Williams' statement to the NAACP confirms Albert Bell's allegations in every detail. She added that both the bus driver and the night watchman stood by, laughed and made no attempt to obtain medical attention while Jones was lying in the street dying.

43d-1945

Mississippi

NATIONAL ROUNDUP

Forgets 'Yes, Sir,'

The Chicago Defender

Miss. Boy, 17, Shot

Chicago, Illinois 10-6-45

Forgets "Yes Sir"

NEW ORLEANS—A mass meeting of Negro citizens was held here last week in an effort to prosecute the persons responsible for the fatal shooting at Belmont, Miss. of Tom Jones Jr., 17, because he failed to say "yes, sir," to a white bus driver.

According to affidavits submitted by witnesses of incident, the youth was shot to death recently while his hands were upraised because he failed to say "Yes" Sir" to a bus driver. A night watchman summoned to the scene by the driver is said to have shot the youth. The driver had been unable to flog the youth with a blackjack, it was stated.

The witnesses stated that the youth was standing near the bus when the driver walked up and asked him what he was waiting for. The youth replied, "For My luggage." When the driver asked him if he was sure his luggage was on the bus, the youth was reported as replying, "Yes." The driver was described as becoming suddenly vexed and telling the youth "You're in Mississippi, not in New Orleans."

Before the youth could reply, the driver began attempting to strike him about the head with a heavy flashlight, then a blackjack. When the youth warded off his blows, the driver was stated to have left the scene and returned in a few minutes with the night watchman, whereupon the shooting took place.

The New Orleans branch of the N.A.A.C.P. and the New Orleans Newspaper council are attempting to have federal authorities investigate the case.

HUNT TEEN AGE GANG RIVALS IN NEGRO'S SLAYING

Chicago Tribune

Revenge Motive Cited by Confessed Killer

More than a score of white and Negro youths, members of rival west side gangs whose feuds have resulted in one killing and several beatings, were being sought yesterday by Warren av. police. Efforts to break up both gangs followed admission by John Ricci, 17, the confessed slayer, that Monday night's street riot was the outgrowth of an attack made a week earlier by the Negro gang upon one of the members of neighborhood organization known as the Brigadiers.

5-26-45

Gun in Killing Recovered

Police who arrested Ricci in his home at 1114 Vernon Park pl. early yesterday said the boy confessed firing a shot in the melee at Paulina and Congress sts. during which Howard Canty, 16, of 224 E. 60th st. was slain and Willie Thomas, 16, of 4358 Prairie av., both Negroes, was severely beaten. The revolver was recovered in the home of Anthony Pomonis, 15, of 1076 Harrison st., who also was taken into custody. It appeared to have been fired twice, police said.

5-26-45

Attacked Youth in Hospital

Ricci refused to identify the member of his organization who was attacked, police said, but a check of accident records revealed that Lawrence Araido, 16, of 1644 Polk st. had been beset by several Negroes with broomsticks at Paulina and Madison sts. May 18. Araido, who police say is a member of the Brigadiers, is still confined in County hospital.

Police also are holding Fred Bartuch, 17, of 848 Lytle st., identified as having clubbed Thomas, and two other members of the club. They are Patsy Gallow, 17, of 3336 Polk st. and Patsy Cardi, 18, of 1032 Polk st.

Anthony Pomonis, 15, in whose home the discharged pistol was found.

John Ricci, 17, who admitted shooting pistol during melee in which Canty was killed.

Shooting Admitted in Gang Killing

Chicago Tribune

Fred Bartuch, Patrick Cardi, and Patrick Gallo, questioned at the Warren av. police station in connection with the slaying of Howard Canty, 16, Negro. 5-26-45 [TRIBUNE Photos]

WHITE FARMER GIVEN LIFE FOR KILLING NEGRO OVER SEAS VETERAN

5-27-45

Black Dispatch Okla.

PORT GIBSON—(ANP)— Byron L. McClure, white Claiborne county farmer, was sentenced last week to life imprisement for the slaying of Benjamin Marshall, Negro overseas veteran, during a Christmas day crap game.

White GI Defends Negro

SHREVEPORT, La.—(ANP)— A white soldier killed a white bus driver here last week in defense of a Negro mother whose crying baby had been killed by the angry white bus driver, according to reliable local reports.

The background of the trouble reportedly began when the Negro mother and her child were riding a bus enroute from Lake Charles to this city. The baby's constant cries irritated the bus driver. He demanded that the mother "quiet that damn little 'nigger'," and "if you don't, I will."

Chicago De Fender

When the mother was unable to stop the baby from crying, he is reported to have gone to the rear of the bus where the mother and child were located, snatched the baby from the mother's arms, then choked it to death.

A white soldier on the bus spoke in defense of the Negro mother when he heard her protests. The bus driver threatened him. The soldier is said to have whipped out his knife, nearly severed the bus driver's head from his shoulders, then drove the bus here with the dead driver and Negro baby.

5-19-45

Although details of the tragedy were not published in the local white press, residents here brand the reports as true rather than rumor. The principals have not been identified.

Electrocuted Negro's Father Shot, Killed

Birmingham News

1-30-45

Tom Vernon, Negro, father of Joe Vernon, who died in the electric chair last year for the slaying of a Birmingham filling station operator, was shot and killed Monday by the operator of a filling station on the Leeds Highway.

County Coroner Joe Hilderbrand announced an inquest for Wednesday morning. The coroner said that Charlie Williams, Irondale Route 1, operator of a filling station known as Gas Island on the Leeds Highway, told him that Vernon had been loitering near the filling station with a rifle. When the Negro approached in a threatening manner, Mr. Williams said he shot him.

Mr. Williams said that he and the Negro had had a misunderstanding about a tire. No charges had been placed against Mr. Williams. Coroner Hilderbrand was assisted in his investigation by Deputy Sheriff Dewey Rickles.

Joe Vernon wa selectrocuted at Kilby Prison for the killing of Benny Montgomery, Woodlawn filling station attendant.

Mother and Child Die On Reno Street

The Black Dispatch

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

9-29-45

A lifeless, stillborn infant rested by the side of its dead mother in the same casket at Blanton and Butler's Funeral Home this week, resulting from an avoidable accident caused by pranking workmen employed by an East Grand metal firm.

9-29-45

When Mrs. Dorothy Parks 17 years old, an expectant mother, 111 North Byers, was walking along the highway in the 700 block on East Reno last Wednesday, workmen driving in a truck suddenly swerved in her direction and before she could move, had struck her to the pavement, fracturing several ribs, bursting her skull and crushing her chest. The fatally injured woman was dragged fully 20 feet, according to eye-witnesses.

All three of the men riding in the car were jailed.

Va. Union Soph Fatally Shot

RF and P Detective Accused in Slaying

BAIL SET AT $1,500

Slain Youth's Pal Held for Robbery

RICHMOND, Va. — George D Garrette, 17 - year - old Virginia Union University sophomore from Grenville, N.C., was fatally shot early Saturday morning by J. H Daniels, 65, white, RF and P Railroad special agent, in the 1600 block W. Broad St., police reported.

Daniels, who lives at 1201 S. Allen Ave., was released Saturday under $1,500 bond pending a preliminary hearing Tuesday in police court on a charge of killing the Union student.

Robert Martin, 18, of Roanoke, Va., another Union sophomore and Garrette's companion at the time of the slaying, is being held under $1,000 bond on a charge of robbery for a hearing also on Tuesday.

Ellisons Furnish Bond

Martin's bond was furnished by Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Ellison. The former is president of Union.

Garrette was slain opposite the Saunders sub-post office station, about a quarter of a mile from the university's campus, and was pronounced dead on the scene by a city ambulance physician.

The death-dealing bullet pierced a jugular vein in the left side of Garrette's neck and passed through the brain before emerging from the left ear, according to Detective Sgt. R. L. Beasley, one of the five policemen investigating the case.

Martin is quoted by friends as saying that after firing point blank on Garrette, Daniels threatened to kill him.

He also said, according to friends, that the white railroad cop refused, under the threat of his menacing revolver, to permit two passersby to render aid to the wounded youth.

En Route to Station

Friends further quoted Martin as saying that the two youths had left Union campus after a dance and gone to a Second Street cafe for something to eat.

Afterwards, his friends asserted, Martin decided to go to Broad Street Station to check the departure schedules of a northbound train and asked Garrette to accompany him. Martin, it was said, had planned to meet his mother in Washington Saturday.

When the pair reached the 1600 block of W. Broad St., they left a westbound streetcar, Martin's friends said, and while en route to the station the incident occurred.

Daniels, according to Detective Captain O. D. Garton, told police that he shot Garrette after the latter had asked him for a match and then thrust a .32-calibre revolver in his stomach.

Youth's Gun Found

Investigating officers said that a gun was found in the dead youth's possession after the slaying, but did not indicate whether the weapon was loaded.

According to Daniels, he heard the two youths approaching and stopped near the curb to observe their movements. It was then, he said, that Garrette requested the match and produced the revolver.

He said that he whipped around and shot the youth. He also said that Martin attempted to flee, but he halted him at the point of his gun.

Friends Ask Question

Garrette's friends are asking how Daniels was able to remove his own revolver from its holster on his belt and quickly shoot the student in his neck, if the latter had a gun pressed against him.

Garrette, son of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Garrette of Greenville, has two brothers in the armed services. He was described by students at Union as an easy-going person with fine qualities.

According to university officials, he had never been involved in any serious disciplinary trouble.

Parents Arrive

His parents came to Richmond Saturday and conferred at length with Union officials and later with police. In the meantime, Garrette's body was shipped to Greenville for burial the same day.

Except for the comment of one university official that the "whole thing came as a complete surprise," no other statement has been made by the institution's administration.

The student body generally was saddened by the tragic affair.

Martin an Athlete

Martin, an outstanding member of the Panther basketball team, is well liked by the student body. He is alos known to have an even temperament.

Daniels, who stated that he was on duty at the time of the killing, said he had just left a restaurant. He has been a special agent for the RF and P for more than twenty years.

Officers investigating the murder included Detective Sgts. H. H. Meeks, Lt. J. W. Butler and Officers J. M. Wilson and J. L. Bahr.

Engineer Freed in Seven Minutes by Jury in Fla.

MIAMI — Another travesty on justice—Southern style—was dramatized here recently when an all-white jury passed over vital evidence by the prosecution and, in seven minutes, acquitted Daniel Hawthorne, chief engineer, of killing Willard Major, 20, messman, on the high seas last May 4.

Hawthorne, a Texan, cannot be tried again for the same crime under Federal law. He pleaded self-defense, and called the men—all unionists—trouble makers who drove him to the act. He shot Major five times, four times after he was down.

An eyewitness to the killing aboard the SS William Eastland, then docked in Aden, Arabia, after giving testimony, called the trial a farce in that the court was "definitely prejudiced," and Hawthorne "grinned" throughout the proceedings.

Major highlights of the case were:

The trickery of defense attorneys who made it impossible for the prosecution to sum up, after previously declaring in open court that they expected to argue the case.

The role of Lt. Commander J. B. Weaver of the Coast Guard who was permitted to give testimony of inestimable value to the defense, although he was in charge of the investigation of the murder aboard the ship, and knew how Hawthorne persecuted the men.

Hawthorne's statement to a reporter for the Miami Daily News after his acquittal: "My destination just now is unknown. I have too many enemies."

The defense trickery was sprung after assistant U.S. District Attorney Ernest Duhaine warned the jurors in the opening argument "to remember it was Hawthorne, not the slain colored messman, Willard Major, who was on trial.

When he had finished, Ray Watson and Ernest Roberts, defense-attorneys arose. Watson said: "Out of consideration for the judge and jury, the defense will waive its argument."

"Very Well," said Judge John W. Holland, "we will excuse the jury. I will give the charge at 9:30 o'clock tomorrow morning."

U.S. District Attorney Herbert S. Phillips, obviously annoyed, stood at once. "Does your honor mean that the government will not have an opportunity to argue this case?" he asked. "I have ruled Mr. Phillips," the judge said with finality.

Phillips, irked by this judicial rebuke, declared he would recommend a rule to guarantee prosecutors the right to argue a government case ,whether or not defense attorneys do so.

He said the action of the defense "denies the right to have the people's case fully argued" and "may possibly defeat the ends of justice and deny to society the full protection of the law."

Major was killed when Hawthorne came down the ladder to the engine room in an ugly mood, bullying the men for cooling a journal bearing with water, waving his gun, and threatening everybody.

The National Maritime Union of which the murdered seaman was a member, on Nov. 2, requested the Coast Guard Commandant R. R. Waesche to halt immediately, Weaver's intervention in the case, and to instigate an inquiry into his behavior.

Some Miami daily papers called attention to glaring contradictions in Hawthorne's "self-defense" story, pointing up his hatred of the NMU crew, and the tricks of the defense to stymie the government's case.

43d-1945

Killings-- Negroes by White Civilians

WHITE MAN GETS LIFE FOR KILLING NEGRO SOLDIER

Plaindealer Kansas City Kans
2-9-45

Port Gibson, Miss. (ANP)—Judge R. B. Anderson of the Claiborne Circuit Court here last week sentenced Bynum McClure, a white man to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary for the murder of Technician fifth grade Benjamin J. Marshall, who had recently returned from serving 28 months overseas.

T/5 Marshall, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Marshall, of Port Gibson, died in a Jackson hospital from gunshot wounds inflicted by the white man on December 26. He was shot in Port Gibson Christmas day while visiting parents on an overseas furlough. No appeal was taken in the case.

Slayer Of Negro Sweetheart To Florida Pen For Life

Miami Whip Florida
2-17-45

MIAMI FLORIDA

The trial of Roosevelt Ellis was halted last week in the Dade County Circuit Court room by an emotional outburst of his mother which caused Judge Richard H. Hunt to call a recess, as Ellis 37 year old former laundry foreman also bursted into tears.

Mrs. Edith Ellis, mother of the defendant was testifying regarding the mental condition of her son following his return from Army service, when suddenly she began to pray and scream while Ellis nervously thumbed a pocket testament. 2-17-45

George S. O'Kell earlier in the trial attempted to prove Ellis insane. Later he tried to get various witnesses to identify a small bag containing two vials as property of the slain woman. He failed in both efforts.

The jury in finding Ellis guilty reccommended mercy which automatically called for life imprisonment. After deliberating for one hour and ten minutes.

Ellis answered "I don't remember" to the majority of the questions asked by the prosecutor, Henry M. Jones. He did not even remember shooting the woman or making a statement to that effect in the states' attorney's office.

Ellis was charged with shooting to death Addie Kemp Cunningham 22, Negro laundry worker whose body was found on a lonely road, ten miles from Miami with a bullet wound through her breast. Witnesses claimed intimate relations existed between the two.

ST. JOE KILLING MARS RACE RELATION DAY

Plaindealer Kansas City Kansas
2-16-45

St. Joseph, Mo.—Race relations day held little interest for the Negroes of the city here Sunday as only 20 persons attended to make-up the congregation of 500 that gathered at the First Congregational church to hear the messages of brotherhood from a Negro speaker, a Mexican, a Japanese and a white minister. 2-16-45

The reason: There lives in this city a man by the name of Alva W. Ross, who was a discharged soldier. Veteran of the Normandy invasion, still wearing his uniform was not molesting any one. Two gamblers came into a place and shot him down in cold blood, saying any Negro would do for them to kill, if they could not find the one they wanted. This cold-blooded act threw a chill over the colored population of the city and virtually destroyed the beauty of the purpose of Race Relations Sunday in this city. The man is held under a $20,000 bond. Much may be expected to come from this incident.

White Slayer Of Negro GI Is Given Life

New York Amsterdam
2-10-45

PORT GIBSON, Miss.—(ANP)—Judge R. B. Anderson of the Claiborne Circuit court here last week sentenced Bynum McClure, a white man, to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary for the murder of Technician fifth grade Benjamin J. Marshall, who had recently returned from serving 28 months overseas.

T-5 Marshall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Marshall, of Port Gibson, died in a Jackson hospital from gunshot wounds inflicted by the white man on December 26. He was shot in Port Gibson Christmas Day while visiting parents on an overseas furlough. No appeal was taken in the case.

Eight White Youths Summoned In Death From Oct. 31 Prank

Atlanta World
3-23-45

LEONARDTOWN, Md (SNS) --- Eight youths were summoned for questioning by the St Marys County grand jury this week on manslaughter charge arising from the death of two Negroes in an automobile chash last Hallowe'en.

The charges were brought by State's Attorney C Henry Camalier after Henry Fenwick, 17, and Albert Butler, 21, both of Oakville, were killed and Dunbar Curtis, 18, Cremons Farms seriously injured when the car in which they were riding struck an obstacle on the Leonardtown highway.

Camalier said the manslaughter charges were brought against the youths for alleged participation in moving a shed across the highway before the fatal crash. 3-23-45

The accused are Walter Kirk Sterling, 18, nephew of Camalier; Merrill, 17; Bernard Spaulding, 19; Charles Evens, 19; Franklin Wise, 21; Gwyn Wathen, 18, and Charles Clements, 16.

Judge Marbury said a crowded docket in the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court would prevent hearing the cases before late this week if indictments were returned by the grand jury. 3-23-45

In Mississippi!

Killed Soldier; Life Sentence

Pittsburgh Courier
2-10-45
Penn.

PORT GIBSON, Miss. (ANP)—Judge R. B. Anderson of the Claiborne Circuit Court here last week sentenced Bynum McClure, a white man, to life imprisonment in the State penitentiary for the murder of T/5 Benjamin J. Marshall, who had recently returned from serving 28 months overseas. 2-10-45

T/5 Marshall, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Marshall of Port Gibson, died in a Jackson hospital from gunshot wounds inflicted by the white man on December 26. He was shot in Port Gibson Christmas day while visiting parents on an overseas furlough. No appeal was taken in the case.

Indict White Driver For Killing Boy, 12

Atlanta Daily World
3-3-45

ATLANTA, (ANP)—An indictment charging involuntary manslaughter was returned Wednesday by the Fulton grand jury against James R. Stephens, white, whose automobile fatally injured 12-year-old Carlton Nelson on the night of Feb. 3.

Stephens was nabbed only after clever detective work as Stephens had failed to stop after striking the youngster. When arrested, Stephens explained his failure to stop by claiming he believed he had struck a dog. 3-3-45

Atlantans were pointing to the Stephens indictment as an example of the double standard of justice traditional to the South. In virtually every case where a Negro driver is involved in a fatal accident, he is indicted for murder, not for involuntary manslaughter.

10 Youths Arrested in Fatal Shooting of Negro School Boy

Daily Worker N.Y. 3-7-45

Ten youths were arrested in the Bronx yesterday for the fatal shooting of Jesse Richardson, 13-year-old Negro schoolboy. A police investigation showed that the death was the result of rivalries between white and Negro youngsters.

All 10 youths are white and said to be members of the Jackson Knights, a gang-club involved in a fight with Negro boys over an alleged theft of pair of eyeglases.

Jesse Richardson was shot through the head and killed instantly. His body was located across the street from P. S. 50, at which he had been a pupil.

Edward Hernandez, 14, of 700 E. 158 St and Edward Rodgeguez, 15, of the same address are being held for homicide. 3-7-45

In the roundup of gang members, the police confiscated three .22 caliber rifles, a sashweight, a bayonet, an iron bar and a knife. On George Gialosas, 20, of 751 Trinity Ave., one of the arrested youths, 200 cartridges were found.

White Man Gets Life For Killing Negro Veteran

Philadelphia Tribune
2-10-45

PORT GIBSON, Miss. (ANP)—Judge R. B. Anderson of the Claiborne Circuit court here last week sentenced Bynum McClure, a white man, to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary for the murder of Technician fifth grade Benjamin J. Marshall, who had recently returned from serving 28 months overseas. 2-10-45

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A Soldier is Murdered

N.Y. Amsterdam News

Leland Stowe, topflight reporter and news commentator, stated over the Blue Network last week that a Negro soldier wearing a purple heart on his uniform was shot to death in Jackson, Miss., when he struck a white man who had torn the purple heart off the soldier's coat. This is, needless to say, a shocking instance of brutality, one which confounds all so-called democratic ideals.

4-17-45

That is, it confounds all democratic ideals, except in the South where every Negro with his country's uniform on is a refutation of the Southern racial caste system. The murder of this soldier whose heroic exploits had won for him the coveted purple heart is nothing more or less than the consensus of the South's true attitude toward all Negroes. The average Southern white knows no other way to show his resentment against a break in its caste system than by invoking extreme physical punishment upon the slightest provocation.

Of course, any rational person can see that the Southern whites have a seriously and dangerously diseased mentality because of their racial attitude. It is like the mentality of Nazis who go to great pains to improvise the most diabolical forms of punishments for Jews and other people they wantonly destroy.

American and other Allied armies are now eradicating the Nazis because they are a scourge of civilization. Paradoxically, our Southern whites, who really taught the Nazis how to hate and murder people, are not only permitted to flourish, but are also permitted to propagandize the rest of the country (and world) with their racial beliefs. It isn't difficult to see that as long as this is so there can be no freedom or peace in this or any other country. For race and religious hate are diseases as dreadful and lethal as cancer, and, like cancer, they cannot be cured unless discovered and treated in time.

4-14-45

Our Government has done practically nothing to abolish race hate, oppression and murder since the outbreak of the war. It has pursued a piddling course at best, indicating that it doesn't intend to do anything about them. Yet, every man, woman and child in this country may well be heading for a racial conflict that will affect the entire nation's life for generations to come. Immediately after the first world war race riots broke out all over the country. Negroes were murdered and mistreated in a thousand different ways by Southern whites for the same reason the unfortunate soldier was murdered in Jackson.

Indeed, his murder may prove to be the spark that will ignite the conflagration after (or during) the second world war. But we cannot afford to let it happen. The South, meantime, will not change itself; the disease has eaten too deep. Our Government must step in and change the South before it is too late.

N.Y. Overseas Vet at Lee

AFRO-American Balt., Md.

Slain by White Va. Cop

1-20-45

Petersburg, Va.—Pvt. Thomas Reed, 25, of New York, overseas veteran stationed at Camp Lee was slain Saturday by a civilian policeman during a street fight near Halifax and Harrison Streets.

The brawl involved another civilian officer, two white military policemen and an unidentified soldier-companion of Reed. The two MP's were severely wounded in the encounter.

Victim Shot Twice

Officer B. B. Shillcutt, of the Petersburg police force, was identified as the policeman who fatally wounded Reed, firing on him twice with his service revolver.

1-20-45

The first shot penetrated Reed's thigh and finally lodged in the knee of one of the MP's. The second shot struck the soldier in the chest just beneath the heart. He died before arriving at the Camp Lee Hospital.

The version of the incident as reported by the post's public relations officer differed in some detail from eyewitness accounts related to the AFRO.

A public relations spokesman said that a taxicab operator summoned the MP's when Reed and his companion became disorderly and were placed under arrest.

Knife Produced

When the MP's started to the patrol car with the pair, Reed allegedly produced a knife and lunged at one of the MP's, while his companion attacked the second, he said.

It was at this point that the civilian officers appeared on the scene and joined in the melee.

Shillicut, it was reported, fired on Reed who was a few feet away from him. As the soldier continued to advance, according to the spokesman, the officer fired again, the second shot proving fatal.

1-20-45

Second Shot Unwarranted

Eyewitnesses pointed out that Reed was momentarily stunned by the first shot and that the second shot was unnecessary. They quoted one of the military policemen as remarking to the officer that they considered the shooting unwarranted.

Reed was a slightly built individual, standing about 5 feet 7 and weighing about 135 pounds and could have been subdued in a less violent manner, they pointed out.

Companion Still Unidentified

The identity of his companion is still unknown.

Reed entered the service about three years ago and in 1943 went overseas where he served eleven months. He returned to this country last April and has been stationed at Lee since September.

He was last assigned to the 22nd Company, First Group, ASFTC, for training. His home is listed as 157 W. 143rd Street, New York, where his sister lives.

Third Shooting in 10 Months

This latest shooting marked the third time since last March that civilian officers have fired on a colored soldier.

1-20-45

In November, Sgt. Abraham Jackson, 23, of Washington, was shot and seriously [illegible]ed by Officer Talbert Pierce. He was recently released from the post's hospital.

Like Pierce, Shillicut has not been confronted with any arrest or other action because of the shootings.

Civic leaders and soldiers have been aroused for some time about the animosity toward colored GI's demonstrated by Petersburg policemen. Meanwhile, Camp Lee authorities have remained complacent, they say.

1-20-45

Says Probe Warranted

In Richmond, Dr. J. M. Tinsely, president of the Richmond NAACP branch and the State Conference of NAACP branches, said that the incident surrounding Reed's death warranted an investigation. He would not say whether he proposed to take any steps in the matter.

The names of the MP's involved are Sgt. Purvis F. Box, of Washington, and Pvt. Howard W. Best, of Greenville, Ohio. The other civilian officer is listed as H. A. Huddleston.

Box and Best are in the hospital, the former suffering from knife wounds, allegedly inflicted by Reed, and the latter from the bullet wound and cuts about the face.

HUNT HOODLUMS IN MAIL ORDER PLANT SLAYING

Chicago Tribune

Blame Outside Gang for Fatal Attack

Police Capt. Jeremiah Looney late yesterday said he had men working in the Warren av. district on clews which he hoped would lead to the arrest of white hoodlums who 24 hours earlier attacked a group of Negroes employed by the Chicago Mail Order company, 511 S. Paulina st., killing one and seriously injuring two others.

Police and officials of the company were agreed that the attack originated outside the company and its employes. Capt. Looney said he and his detectives were convinced of this, and Jack C. Staehle, director of industrial relations for the plant, agreed.

6-23-45

Twenty-five Per Cent Are Negroes

"We have about 25 per cent Negroes working in the plant. Employment of these people became necessary both under war conditions and under the fair employment practices demanded of us all by the government and by sociologists," Staehle said. "We have done an outstanding job of integration here at the plant, and in this we were helped materially by J. Bernard Bradshaw, a Negro personnel man.

"Bradshaw is a trained man in white-Negro personnel relations, took a post-graduate course at the University of Chicago, and has used the finest of common sense. We are certain there has been no friction among the whites and Negroes in the plant and that the trouble came from outside."

Staehle said some of the Negroes employed by the company had been molested about six weeks ago by outside hoodlums and that on April 11, the company had requested a police detail be stationed near the plant from 6:45 a. m. to 9:30 p. m. in order to avoid trouble. Capt. Looney said this detail had been withdrawn a few days ago because the men were needed elsewhere in connection with the steamsters' strike.

6-23-45

Worker Shot Thru Heart

Howard Cantry, 16, who lived at 224 E. 60th st., was the Negro youth who was killed. He was shot thru the heart as he walked with others at Congress and Paulina sts., after the group had left the plant. Willie Thomas, 17, of 4858 Prairie av., and Leonard Moore, 16, 5045 Michigan av., were the Negroes injured.

Police said the shot that killed Cantry and bricks which injured the other two came from a group of a dozen or more white men. Thomas, who was taken unconscious to County hospital, was still in serious condition.

Woman Held As Author Of Mailed Threat

Montgomery Advertiser
Mont., Ala.

Mrs. Lucy Barefield, Of Eufaula, Accused By FBI

See 47m

Mrs. Lucy Barefield, arraigned before United States Commissioner Wallace M. Sloane yesterday on a charge of mailing a letter in the Eufaula postoffice in which she threatened bodily harm to the addressee, pleaded not guilty and was bound over to the grand jury under a $500 bond.

2-26-45

The letter was said by the commissioner to be addressed to Sid Foy of Eufaula. Testimony of the FBI agent who made the investigation revealed that Foy is employer of a large number of negroes, among them the 22-year old Peter Paul Hall, recently convicted of criminal assault and murder of a young white girl and given the death penalty.

Foy, who is said to have aided Hall in getting off with only a fine in a former case where he was charged with criminal assault of a negro woman, was threatened in the letter with bodily punishment if he attempted to aid Hall in his murder trial.

The letter, unsigned, and printed by hand, was offered by the FBI investigator in making his charge at the arrangnment of Mrs. Barefield. It made reference to the negro's attack on the young white girl and said in effect: "If you attempt to get Peter Paul Hall out of this, we will take you to the woods and get you."

2-21-45

The defendent is said to be the wife of a Eufaula mail carrier.

Acquit Policeman For Killing Race Woman

The Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

10-2-45

SELMA, Ala.—(SNS)— With their one hour deliberations carrying them into the night, an all-white Circuit Court jury September 27 acquitted Former Police Officer Geo W. Booker charged with the murder of Mrs. Nicey Brown here June 10.

Presenting evidence, the State contended that Booker, off duty went to the Brown home, broke his way in and clubbed the elderly woman to death with a blunt instrument.

The defense argued that the policeman went to the Brown home seeking another man who had previously lived there about some fishing bait and was shot while standing on the porch.

Lige Bown, invalid husband of the slain woman testified that he shot the policeman after he had knocked his wife down. Solicitor Joseph James said that Booker suffered chest wounds for which he was treated for several weeks.

Negro Driver Admits Fight With Eilbott

Montgomery Advertiser

Says He Stole Wallet And Ring But Denies He Clubbed Employer

Ala.

Ernest Robinson, mulatto chauffeur for G. G. Eilbott, novelty jewelry salesman, who was found dead of head blows in his hotel room here Sunday afternoon, became the No. 1 suspect in the hunt for his employer's murderer yesterday, when, according to police, he confessed that he robbed Eilbott of his wallet and six-carat diamond ring after a fight in the bathroom.

11-2-45

The confession took place in Troy, where it had been established that Robinson spent the weekend in Eilbott's car and where he was returned yesterday to be confronted with corroborative evidence in the form of torn papers that had been taken from the dead salesman's wallet.

According to Robinson's statement which was made public by Gen. William P. Screws, Montgomery commissioner of public safety, Eilbott surprised him shortly after noon Saturday with several sample rings on his finger. Robinson said his employer reprimanded him and that a fight ensued. Robinson related that he ran into the bathroom adjoining the hotel room in which Eilbott had his jewelry and novelty samples displayed. His employer came after him there, he said, adding that he tripped Eilbott who fell and struck his head on the toilet seat.

Took Ring And Wallet

Then, the negro went on, he returned to the outer room and found the heavy diamond ring and his employer's wallet, both of which he pocketed. He used a towel to clean some blood from his person, stuffed it between the mattresses on Eilbott's bed, and rushed from the room, slamming the door. In the hotel corridor, he said, he remembered his overcoat and handbag and tried to reenter the room but could not because in slamming the door he had jarred the bolt into its slot.

The negro was quoted as saying the wallet he took contained a $100 bill, a $10 bill and a $1 bill, all but $4 of which he squandered at a street fair in Troy over the weekend. As to the ring, he was quoted as saying he had it on his own finger when he was returning to Montgomery from Troy Monday morning and sold it to a soldier whom he picked up on the highway. He said the soldier offered him $5 for it but could dig up only $4.50 which he accepted.

Preceding Robinson's confession, Montgomery police had learned that a negro answering his description had been seen tearing up the contents of a wallet at the carnival grounds. The spot was visited and fragments were picked up and later pieced together to form one of Eilbott's identification cards and a receipt for automobile insurance issued to Eilbott.

Facts Fit Together

Gen. Screws said that C. H. Rehling, state toxicologist, fixed the time of Eilbott's death at between 18 and 24 hours prior to its discovery which took place at 2:30 p.m. Sunday. This fitted in with the negro's statement that his fight with his employer took place early Saturday afternoon.

11-2-45

The toxicologist also was interested in blood stains on Eilbott's left hand. His right hand was clean of blood. This fact led him to reconstruct the removal of the salesman's ring thus: Robinson's hands, he said, which were presumably bloody, grasped the dead man's left hand and jerked the ring off the finger, leaving tell-tale stains behind.

The statement which Robinson signed covered 18 pages and detailed his activities in Troy Saturday and Sunday nights. It was made in Troy yesterday in the presence of that city's police authorities.

Gen. Screws said Robinson would face a robbery charge whether or not he was charged with his employer's murder. Solicitor Seibels said yesterday the Montgomery County grand jury which is to be convened Monday would investigate the case.

Typewriter Used To Club Eilbott

The Montgomery Advertiser

Negro Says He Hit Him With It Several Times

Montgomery, Ala.

A portable typewriter, his own, was used to batter the head of G. G. Eilbott, novelty jewelry salesman, whose lifeless body was found Sunday afternoon in a fourth floor hotel room, Ernest Robinson, the dead man's mulatto chauffeur, told Montgomery policemen yesterday in an extension of the confession he made the day before.

11-3-45

"He told us he hit Eilbott three or four times with the typewriter," Police Chief Ralph B. King said. "As far as I am concerned the case is cracked."

Soon after the salesman's driver admitted using his employer's typewriter to rain blows on his head, a warrant charging him with murder was sworn out here by Reginald Eilbott, of Pine Bluff, Ark., a surviving brother.

Robinson had been implicated by the discovery of papers at Troy, identified as fragments of documents that had been in Eilbott's wallet. Confronted with this evidence, he was said to have confessed the theft of the wallet containing $111, and a large diamond ring. At the same time he denied striking Eilbott, insisting that he and his employer had a fight in the latter's hotel room and that he tripped him in the bathroom, causing him to fall and strike his head on a fixture.

Negro Admits Taking Diamond Ring, Wallet In Hotel Death Case

The Birmingham News

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 2—(AP)—William P. Screws, Montgomery commissioner of public safety, reported last night that Ernest Robinson, Negro chauffeur, had admitted in a signed statement taking a wallet and diamond ring from G. G. Eilbott, but denied striking his employer whose body was found in a hotel room here Sunday.

Birmingham Ala.

The confession, Screws said, was made at Troy, Ala. It was at Troy that the Negro claimed he spent the week-end, the officer explained, and where he was taken yesterday to be shown evidence in the form of papers taken from Eilbott's wallet.

11-2-45

Screws said Robinson gave this account of what happened Sunday:

Eilbott surprised him in the hotel room with several rings from the salesman's display on his finger. Eilbott reprimanded him. A fight ensued and Eilbott was tripped in the bathroom, striking his head on a fixture as he fell. Robinson then picked up his employer's ring and wallet and ran.

Robinson had been held without formal charges since Monday and no formal charges had been placed against him last night.

Eilbott Killer Convicted By Circuit Jury

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery Ala.

11-20-45

Victim's Chauffeur Gets Life Imprisonment For Murder In Hotel Room

Ernest Robinson, negro chauffeur charged with the murder of his employer, G. C. Eilbott, was convicted of murder in the first degree early last night by a Montgomery County Circuit Court jury and his punishment was set at life imprisonment in the penitentiary.

The Jury received the case at 6:50 p.m., after a day-long trial, and returned the verdict at 7:50 p.m.

The defendant now faces a second charge of robbery of his employer, a jewelry salesman from Memphis, Tenn.

A plea of not guilty and not guilty by reason of self-defense failed to win the defendant the freedom sought by defense attorneys.

Admitted Hitting Victim

Taking the stand in his own behalf in the late afternoon, the defendant admitted striking his employer with a typewriter after Mr. Eilbott had accused him of trying to steal rings from his jewelry display and had cursed and slapped him.

11-20-45

According to the defendant's testimony, he was left alone in the hotel room on Saturday, Oct. 27, to set up the jewelry display of his employer while Mr. Eilbott went out to call on customers. Included in the display was a new case of "glossy" rings and he had slipped four on his fingers when Mr. Eilbott returned. Knowing that his employer would be displeased if he saw the rings on his chauffeur's fingers, the defendant sat in a chair and hid his hand behind one of the display tables, then moved to the bathroom and was attempting to get them off and return them to the display case unnoticed when Mr. Eilbott came to the bathroom and saw what was going on. Thereupon, Mr. Eilbott cursed him, slapped him in the face, and ridiculed him by removing a valuable ring from his finger and telling him to give

"this to his negro whores."

Typewriter For Weapon

Continuing his testimony, the defendant said he slammed the door, leaving Mr. Eilbott in the bathroom, but his employer opened the door and at that, the defendant caught the portable typewriter nearby by the handle and swung it, hitting his employer in the face. He then closed the bathroom door, heard a "scuffling noise" inside, picked up Mr. Eilbott's wallet and diamond ring "which were on the floor," and left the room, but remembering his bag and overcoat, tried to return to get them only to discover the door was bolted. Thereupon, he went downstairs, entered Mr. Eilbott's automobile, of whch he had the keys, and drove to Troy. 11-20-45

The defendant's appearance on the stand came after his attorneys, Walter Johnston and Charles Stakely, sought unsuccessfully to block admission of a written confession as evidence. The negro admitted on the stand that he had made the full confession and signed it "without threat or force or hope of reward."

Chief witness for the prosecution, Dr. C. R. Rehling, State toxicologist, testified that the results of a postmortem examination showed Mr. Eilbott had been killed "through multiple injuries inflicted by a hard instrument."

Weapon In Evidence

Judge Eugene Carter admitted, over defense objections, a portable typewriter which the State contended was the weapon used to kill Mr. Eilbott, and papers Solicitor Temple Seibels said came from the slain man's purse. The papers, witnesses testified, were found where the negro told the court he went after the hotel room fight.

Dr. Rehling testified he found the typewriter lying on the floor by a desk near the door, and that two human hairs within the color range of the deceased's, thinly smeared blood and fragments of skin were on the machine, that its parts were "frozen" and frame broken in two major points, the keys were difficult to raise and the mechanism of the carriage bent, and also that the design on the carriage handle was exactly like an imprint on the dead man's forehead.

While the typewriter case was admitted as evidence early in the trial upon the sworn statement of Mrs. Jessie Cook, sister of the dead man, and of Dr. Rehling, the typewriter itself was not admitted until an expert was called to the stand and testified that beyond reasonable doubt the typewriter, a portable Remington, was the one belonging to the case.

Towel Not In Evidence

The defendant admitted placing between the mattresses a blood-stained towel which Dr. Rehling testified that he found there, but denied the accusation that the towel was used to wipe blood from his hands when he removed the diamond ring, estimated at "$3,000 or $4,000 in value", from the dead man's hand as he lay face upward in the bathroom floor where he was found dead by hotel authorities on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 28. The towel was not admitted as evidence.

The ring, which the defendant admitted taking "from the floor where it lay," was disposed of to a "white soldier he gave a ride at Orion" on his way back to Montgomery on Monday morning after his employer's body was found, the defendant told on the witness stand. He further said he sol dit to the soldier for $4.80 and was glad to get rid of it for any price. 11-20-45

When Body Was Found

Mr. Eilbott's body was found in his hotel room on Oct. 28, about 2:30 in the afternoon after maids had been unable to get into the room to clean it. The testimony brought out that officials were called after he failed to answer his phone, that a boy was let down through the ransom and opened the bolted door and when the body was found in the bathroom, the county coroner and police authorities were called.

Because of the door bolted on he inside, and a bottle of nitroglycerine tablets by his pocket, it wa sat first thought by some authorities that Mr. Eilbott, known to suffer from heart trouble, had died of natural causes, and received the wounds when his head hit one of the bathroom fixtures. 11-20-45

The chauffeur was taken into custody when he returned to Montgomery on Monday morning, Oct. 29, and attempted to take the hotel's freight elevator to his "boss's room."

Two Decatur Negroes Admit Knife Slaying

Birmingham News 12-19-45

DECATUR, Ala., Dec. 18—(AP)—Police Chief J. B. Whitmire said today two young Negroes charged with the murder of a white man here Thursday night had confessed that they stabbed him on a Decatur street.

The two, Sammie Thomas, 18, and Rufus Wilson, 21, were charged with first degree murder in police warrants, and their cases will be brought before the Grand Jury in January. 12-19-45

The victim was Manford Amos Chaffin, whose body was found late Thursday night. Coroner Bev Howell said he was killed by a knife wound which apparently entered his heart.

43e-1945

OKLAHOMA MAN SHOOTS COP WHO KICKS HIS DOOR DOWN

The Plaindealer - Kansas City, Kansas - 9-15-45

Okmulgee.—When is a man's house his castle?

That was the question which Walter J. Jackson, 75-year-old Negro, answered with a single shot when Constable Ed Rorabaugh and Deputy Sheriff Tom Powell kicked down his door after Jackson had failed to answer when the officers attempted to serve an eviction writ on the aged man.

According to Sheriff Jim Kirby, Jackson went into his house and closed the door when he saw the officers approaching. Rorabaugh went to the rear and smashed down the door. Jackson fired one shot, the bullet striking the constable just above the heart. Powell fled and sounded an alarm.

A possee, armed with rifles, pistols and machine guns, was formed and a stream of bullets peppered the house. Blaine Hill, Okmulgee police captain, entered the house and found that Jackson had fled. He was captured a short time later, leaning, exhausted, against a church building in the Negro section. He surrendered without resistance and gave the officers a .44 caliber pistol with which he had shot the officer, together with a pistol which he took from the wounded man. He was taken to the city jail and later removed to the county jail for safe keeping pending the outcome of Rorabaugh's wounds.

Negro Fires On Okmulgee Officers

Black Dispatch

OKMULGEE.—When is a man's house his castle?

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Oklahoma City, Okla.

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California

Another tragedy in 'Frisco: janitor kills young ensign

The Los Angeles Tribune Los Angeles, Calif

10-29-45

SAN FRANCISCO — This city, which is fast becoming known as the "city of tragedies," suffered another Tuesday when an adventuresome young ensign, son of a socially prominent white family, was stabbed to death by a Negro janitor in a Folsom street rooming house.

The janitor, Willie Robinson, 30, was exonerated Thursday by a coroner's jury, which ruled the killing of Ensign Peter P. Emge, 21, justifiable. Robinson told police he stabbed Emge with a paring knife when the seaman crashed in the door of the Robinson apartment.

What prompted Emge to invade the Robinson apartment was never learned by police. The youth was struck in the neck by Robinson's knife and staggered into the hall where he collapsed, dead. The knife, Robinson said, lay by his bed where he had used it earlier in the evening to cut lemons for tea he made to relieve his wife, Velma's, cold.

Robinson said he awoke when his wife screamed, "Somebody is in the room."

"I yelled, 'What do you want, but got no answer. I saw a man coming toward me with his hands in the air and his left foot raised as if to kick me. I grabbed the paring knife and struck him in the neck."

Emge, whom his mother described as unsettled by the war, had been in the company of a woman and three young men, one a childhood companion. Two were Sea Bees Emge had struck up an acquaintance with in a bar. The men had met the woman, later identified as Mrs. Gladys Kranizeh, a Navyman's wife, in the bar and had taken her home.

Only two of the four men escorted Mrs. Kranizeh home. Emge drove, leaving Mrs. Kranizeh and the Sea Bee, escorting her out a few blocks from her home, in front of the Robinson rooming house. 10-29-45

Emge was alone when he got the impulse to crash the Robinson door.

A Navy flyer on leave, Emge was the only son of Dr. and Mrs. Ludwig A. Emge. His father, a retired Army colonel, is a gynecologist at Stanford university hospital.

Youth blames marihuana for life of crime

Los Angeles Tribune

Broadcaster

Marihuana, which made him "fearless and bold", was blamed by Wesley Howard Moore, 19-year-old music student, for his plight as he heard himself sentenced Friday to life imprisonment for murder and 12 counts of robbery.

Cub.

Moore was the third of six Eastside youths, to be sentenced for the murder of Ensign Norman Bicknese last July. First to be "sent up" was Pvt. Alvin Goldson, the trigger man, given life at hard labor in the federal penitentiary by a 9-officer military tribunal. Youngest of the group was Sunday School pupil Edward Priestley, 16. He was sentenced to life and sent to the prison farm at Chino.

11-12-45

Moore, sentenced by Judge Thomas L. Ambrose, lamented to the court, "If I had never used marihuana, I wouldn't be in this court today." Drugs made him fearless and bold, he said.

Asked how often he smoked marihuana, he answered whenever he was with the companions with whom he was involved in the robberies and murder.

Moore, with Goldson, led the band of youths who preyed on servicemen. Others, awaiting sentence are: Joseph Hongo, 18, Phillip Lee Brown, 17, and William Boseman, 18.

43e-1945

~~Oklahoma~~ California

Private who killed ensign gets life; civilian on trial

Los Angeles Tribune, Los Angeles, California 9-3-45

A former Newton Street division detective, who has frequently been charged with brutality, was accused this week by Pfc. Alvin Goldson, 19, of beating him with his fists and a telephone book to obtain a confession in the killing of a white Navy ensign.

Although Goldson freely admitted the shooting and threw himself on the mercy of the Army court martial, the alleged confession was thrown out on suspicion of having been forced, and Goldson was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment on his own admission of guilt.

An unprecedented defense was offered by the youth, who was arrested at a San Bernardino Army airbase and shared the charge with a civilian whose trial is pending. Telling the Army court that he expected to spend the rest of his life in jail for the crime, he asked only that the court spare him and not carry out the sentence recommended by the prosecution of death before a firing squad.

"I expect and am willing to spend the rest of my life in prison," Goldson said. "But believe me I didn't intend to kill that man."

The soldier's mother also plead with the court to spare her son's life. Describing him as God-fearing and Sunday School-reared, she urged the court:

"I know he needs to be punished for his crime. But please — please don't kill him." Flanking Goldson in court were his minister, the Rev. James L. Jones, and his grandmother, Mrs. Prudie Harper.

Goldson told the court Det. Tetrick beat him into unconsciousness with a telephone book, cursed him and threatened him. Lt. Col. Henry H. W. Lewis ordered the confession ruled out because he said he was not convinced it was given voluntarily.

Testifying that Goldson had not intended to shoot Navy Ensign Norman Bicknese, but that the gun went off accidentally when Bicknese kicked the soldier in the mouth, was Goldson's companion, Wesley Howard Moore, 19, who will be arraigned Sept. 8 in Dept. 44 of the Superior Court. Moore said the two offered Ensign Bicknese and Ensign Herman J. Haase a ride last July 9, then started to hold them up. 9-3-45

When Bicknese's wallet revealed only $6.00, the youths started fighting and Goldson got the gun out of the car pocket. When the ensign kicked him, he said, the gun went off.

Los Angeles Tribune, Los Angeles, Calif.

Kills White Fla. Farmer Who Came To Beat Him

The Chicago Defender
Chicago Illinois 10-6-45

MIAMI — (ANP) — Police last last week were investigating the shotgun slaying of a white farmer who reportedly went to the home of a Negro to beat him.

Officials had asked an inquest over the body of Coleman Marlow, 45, who was killed on the front porch of the home of Austin Addison of Coconut Grove

A shotgun was recovered from under a house next to Addison's which police said Marlow was carrying when he was shot. Detective Sgt. John L. Deas quoted the white widow as saying she hid the gun after her husband was shot.

Shortly before midnight the day of the shooting, Marlow, his wife and a Negro employe of Marlow, Seabrook Cooper, went to Addison's house and Marlow called to Addison to come out to help him put out a fire at a Negro farmer's house, according to police. (Deas said Marlow intended to take Addison to his home and give him a beating.) A few minutes later a shot was fired from inside the house and Marlow fell dead from the blast of a 12-gauge gun.

I. R. Mills, state investigator, quoted Addison as saying that when he locked himself in his house, Mrs. Marlow went to their truck and got a shotgun and that Marlow, also armed with a shotgun, approached the house at the same time.

Farmer who meant to whip Negro, carried out feet first

Los Angeles Calif. Tribune
10-1-45

MIAMI—A white South Miami farmer, who went to the home of a Negro farmer to give him a beating for "his impertinence", was carried home feet first when the Negro fired a blast from a 12-gauge shot gun into his body.

The dead farmer is Coleman Marlow, 45. The Negro, who was arrested and is being held under heavy guard for safe keeping from lynchers, is Austin Addison, of the district known as Coconut Grove.

10-15-45

According to witnesses, Marlow and Addison had a dispute Saturday and after midnight, Marlow, accompanied by his wife and an unidentified Negro, went to Addison's home. Marlow was armed.

As he approached, Addison fired his shot gun, fatally wounding the white man.

Slays White Farmer Who Came to Beat Him

The Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa. 10-6-45

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43e-1945 Foreign

Coronet Tells Story of Aaron Perry's Bro. Exploits

The Washington Tribune
Washington, D.C. 9-8-45

The latest issue of Coronet Magazine carries an interesting story concerning a Washingtonian, Herman Perry, who was reported early this year as the first soldier to be hung in India-Burma Theater.

The story written by Roger Treat, sports editor of the Washington Daily News, tells of how Perry, a brother of the famed Aaron Perry, one-time fistic sensation, lived for months in the jungles of India, while eluding the clutches of American MP's.

According to the story in Coronet, Herman was working on the Ledo-Burma road, and one night, he sneaked off into a native village and got high on marijuana and opium.

When four men came looking for him, dope-drugged Perry picked up a gun and killed one of them. He then beat a trail into the jungle.

How Perry survived in the jungle and made acquaintance and romance with a native girl makes for an interesting story.

In the Coronet story, Perry was captured once, but through Houdini-like resourcefulness escaped the prison camp. After his escape he managed to evade bloodhounds, K-9 dogs and crack native police. 9-8-45

It seems that he was caught after holding up a bunch of colored troops and making a haul of thirty dollars. The hold up gave up his position.

He was wounded in the final capture, brought to trial and sentenced to the gallows.

According to Treat in his Coronet article, the GI's in the Burma-Ledo area will have some tales spun around the movements of Herman Perry, when they return.

43e-1945

Kansas

JAIL 17-YEAR OLD YOUTH FOR MURDER OF LIQUOR STORE DEALER IN KANSAS CITY

Plaindealer

Although terrified by a pair of gun wielding holdup men, 17-year old Leon Williams, 1606 Tracy, registered every detail in his mind when Henny Gannon, manager of a liquor store at 1601 Virginia, was fatally wounded October 9. And one little, but highly important, detail was the key to the solution of the slaying. Kansas City

Foremost in Williams mind was the bright red color of the butt of the gun used in the holdup-slaying, and, according to police reports, that one fact was enough. Kans

Saturday Theodore Roosevelt Rhone, 20, 2204 East Twentieth street, signed a statement admitting to police that he shot Gannon. The police report further states that Jack Owens, 19, 1217 Park avenue, had signed a similar statement earlier in the day, allegedly admitting that he had a part in the holdup. 10-26-45

Rhone, who was an employee at an auto laundry operated by Willie Stephenson, 517 Admiral Blvd., states that he took the weapon, a long barreled .22-caliber target pistol, from a drawer in the office and returned it after the shooting.

Several days after the shooting, Stephenson said he found Rhone at his farm home in Johnson County and caused his arrest on a robbery charge. He was place in jail at Olathe.

When these details came to the attention of Marion Bolder, manager of the auto laundry, he told Stephenson that Rhone had been seen taking the weapon from the drawer. Bolder, according to the report, said that Jeanette Jones, Rhone's sister, also of the East Twentieth street address, was his informant and that she had heard Rhone and Owens discussing news accounts of the slaying.

Stephenson passed his information on to William Renner, Negro policeman, who with three other policemen, arrested Owens at 2 o'clock Friday morning. Owens admitted his part and said that Rhone did the shooting.

Rhone is said to have waived extradition and came back to Kansas City where he signed a statement corroborating Owens version of the shooting. Both men admitted three other holdups before the shooting, each time using the red handled pistol

43e-1945

Third Youth Gets 'Chair In Slaying

Atlanta World

4-14-45

An all-white jury in the Fulton Superior Court returned a verdict of guilty against Jesse Creighton, 24-year-old Atlantan, charged with murder, after deliberating 20 minutes Wednesday morning. The verdict carries a mandatory sentence of death by electrocution.

Creighton, charged with two other Negro Atlantans, both in their early twenties, Alonzo Jones and George McKay, with the last December 30 pistol slaying of Peter D. Verge, in the latter's liquor store at 435 Edgewood avenue, during a holdup, went to trial for his life early Tuesday morning. The two others were convicted several weeks on the charges and sentenced to death in the electric chair at separate trails.

Counsel for Creighton, whose aged mother sat beside him during the entire trial, contended that the defendant was not a party to the slaying and that he had been lured to the slaying scene by the other two youths on the pretense that they were going to the liquor store to make a purchase.

4-14-45

The state argued that Creighton was a part of the plot to rob Verge which resulted in his death, and that he deserved the same punishment as the others. Assistant Solicitor Ruben Garland demanded a death verdict for Creighton and was rewarded following the brief jury deliberation.

4-14-45

Defense counsel for the defendant were Attorneys Speer and Stonecypher and presiding was Judge Virlyn B. Moore. The case attracted large numbers of persons of both races.

TWO NEGROES JAILED IN PARKED CAR BEATI

Commercial Appeal

4-23-45

Sheriff Perry Says Each Ha Incriminated Other In Brutal Slashing

Tenn.

Flashlight beams of close-working Memphis police and Shelby County authorities fell early yesterday on the frightened faces of the two negroes accused of committing one of Shelby County's most brutal knife murders.

Just seven and one-half hours before, 10:30 Saturday night, crisscrosing light rays had marked a deadly "" over the spot where police found the half-submerged body of brawny, handsome Andrew Jackson Mitchison, 34-year-old truck driver. Ricocheting across the dark waters of a Warford, Chelsea wilderness creek, the pitiless glare picked out with dreadful clarity a gash on the victim's neck, so vicious a wound that the head hung by little more support than the bone.

4-23-45

Suspects Sign Statements

The suspects, Johnny Outlaw, 27, of 225 Lyon, and Tom Walker, 33, of Oakville, have signed statements in County Jail, each incriminating the other, Sheriff Oliver Perry said. According to their stories, the sheriff said, the negroes set upon Mr. Mitchison and the victim's companion, Miss Irene R. Duffy, 28, 2415 Faxon, at 9:30 p.m. as the couple ast in an automobile parked in the desolate region just east of Warford and north of Chelsea. Mr. Mitchison apparently was killed when he resisted their attempt to rob him.

Miss Duffy was not molested, Sheriff Perry said. How she managed to escape, he would not disclose, though he confirmed reports she had promised to stay in the car alone without making a move for 30 minutes after the killing.

Miss Duffy signed a statement concerning the murder and identified the negro suspects, Sheriff Perry said.

4-23-45

Dragged From Car

From evidence at the murder scene, it appeared Mr. Mitchison had been dragged from the car and forced to walk down a small hill about 50 feet in front of the car. A pool of blood at t hat point indicated he attempted to fight off the negroes. A cut on his left hand between the thumo and forefinger, a wound he might have received in grasping the edge of a knife, bears this out.

The spot of the actual killing, somewhat nearer the parked car, is marked by a stain of blood more than a yard long. Broken brambles and prints in the sticky mud of the bottom land make it evident that one of the murderers dragged the body approximately 150 yards down the slope and across a slough. The body had been flung chest down into the creek a few feed from the bank.

4-23-45

Valuables Taken

Though the victim was wearing a leather wrist watch band, the watch itself was missing, as were his other valuables.

Outlaw was arrested late Saturday night near the scene not long after discovery of the body, reportedly on a tip received by Patrolmen Otto Torrey and L. A. Raney. Shortly after Outlaw signed his statement at County Jail deputies surrounded Walker's house at Oakville and captured their second suspect. In outhouse back of Walker's place they found a long knife with a razor sharp edge, which they believe to be the murder weapon, War Bonds made out to Mr. Mitchison, and bloody clothes.

Walker made his statement after several hours of questioning, and accompanied county authorities to the scene yesterday afternoon.

Wife, Son Survive

Mr. Mitchison was the husband of Mrs. Bertha Mitchison, 2596 Ogden. For the past several weeks he had been boarding at 321 Jackson, near his place of employment, the Air Force Supply Depot on Jackson.

4-23-45

Born near Big Sandy, Tenn., he moved to Memphis about 13 years ago. He was a member of the Holiness Church, and was fond of hunting.

In addition to his wife, he leaves his 2-year-old son, Raymond Andrew, and a brother, William Mitchison of Memphis.

Thompson Brothers Funeral Home is in charge.

Jury Is Selected In Hale Slaying

Montgomery Advertiser

Two Negroes Face Trial In Planter's Death

5-22-45

GREENSBORO, ALA., May 21. —(AP)—A jury was drawn in Circuit Court here today to hear the trial of two teen-age negroes charged with the killing of a 63 year-old Hale County planter, Jack T. Walton.

Court was recessed after the venire was completed, and taking of testimony is scheduled to start tomorrow.

The negroes, Richard Brown, 19, and Ernest Johnson, 17, were indicted on first degree murder charges after the bullet-riddled body of Walton, their employer, was recovered from the Warrior River, March 6.

Although they pleaded innocent to the indictment, Sheriff B. W. Coleman said they had confessed they ambushed Walton, firing on him with a shotgun and pistol, and took $64 from his person.

The killing took place on Feb. 8, the sheriff said, but Walton's disappearance was not known until nearly a month later when relatives in Oklahoma became alarmed over failure to communicate with him.

5-22-45

The officer said Walton, a widower who lived alone near Sawyerville, about 14 miles west of here, often went for weeks without making an appearance in Greensboro.

The slain man operated a 1,000-acre Black Belt plantation for his brother-in-law, Dr. E. D. Dunlap, of Lawton, Okla., and also engaged extensively in cattle raising.

Blalock Counsel Not To Seek New Trial

Atlanta World—G2

3-18-45

Joe Ewing, counsel for Horace Blalock, who was sentenced to life imprisonment Friday in the 1943 slaying of Henry C. Heinz, wealthy Atlanta banker, said Saturday that he had changed his mind and would not file a moton for a new trial, or appeal from the verdict.

Mr. Ewing, commenting that the jury verdict showed doubt as to his client's guilt, said that he would gather evidence and expects to prove in the future that Blalock was innocent The attorney also stated that should nothing else definitely develop he would seek parole for Blalock after seven years when the convicted man will be eligible for freedom under Georgia law.

3-18-45

Blalock agreed to the decision of Mr. Ewing not to file motion for a new trial, the attorney said following an interview. The Simpson road resident was said to be still contending his innocence, but jubilant that the jury saw fit to spare him the electric chair. Trial jurors deliberated more than 50 hours before a reported compromise was reached. Unofficial reports were Saturday that the balloting stood at seven for electrocution and five for life sentence during most of the deadlock. Judge James C. Davis refused to declare a mistrial, although told by the jurors near midnight the first day of balloting that they did not believe they could ever get together on a verdict.

Mr. Ewing said Saturday that he was "glad as pie" that he could get a new trial through an appeal, but that he chose the further investigation method, as agreed to by his client.

Meanwhile, Saturday, Fulton Solicitor General E. E. Andrews said that Blalock will be tried at the Atlanta Courthouse, probably in April, on six counts of burglary.

Blalock went on trial in Decatur's DeKalb Superior Court Monday morning. The trial drew capacity crowds.

Ohio Governor Saves Life of Negro Woman

5-18-45

The CALL

COLUMBUS, Ohio. — Demonstrating his great humanitarinism, Ohio's Governor Frank J. Lausche, this week commuted to life imprisonment, Johnnie Mae Gardner, young colored woman scheduled to die in the electric chair as an accessory to the act of the murder of Jacob Reinstalter, a jeweler of Cincinnati. This comes as a result of appeals by thousaids of interested club women and citizens throughout the country. Once before Governor Lausche had granted a reprieve of 30 days when this girl was to have died in the electric chair on April 6.

Church, fraternal and civic leaders, all joined in the appeal to save the life of this woman whose action they did not condone, but whom they believed was a victim of spcial conditions. Not for many years have the women of Ohio and the country at large been so aroused in behalf of a cause as they were in this instance.

5-18-45

Responsible for this unusual interest in the plight of this unfortunate woman was the Ohio State Federation of Colored Women, led by its dynamic state president, Jane E. Hunter, executive secretary of the Phyllis Wheatley Association of Cleveland. Norman L. McGhee, Cleveland attorney acted as counsel for the Federation in its efforts to accomplish this result.

Colored women of Ohio and hrough out the nation are loudly acclaiming Governor Lausche for his sympathetic understanding Gardner's life.

Decatur Jury Gives Blalock Life Sentence

Atlanta World

Takes Two Days To Arrive At 'Mercy' Verdict

5-17-45

The jury reached a decision after over two days of deliberation, an all-white DeKalb County Superior Court jury around 6:00 o'clock Friday evening, having received the case at 3:55 p. m. Wednesday.

Judge James C. Davis thereafter found Horace Blalock guilty of the murder of Henry C. Heinz, wealthy white banker, and recommended the former having claiming that the Simpson Road

Observers considered the verdict a victory for Blalock and his defense, since the prosecution had indicated an im- pledged to give a large portion of the rest of his life to finding the convicted. recommended mercy under the 'real murderer' if his client were

tence of life to a life sen- Blalock

PLAN APPEAL

Defense counsel Joe Ewing and James Venerable indicated an immediate appeal of the case to the higher courts, the former having

railroad man had entered the banker's residence on a burglary mission in 1943 and had slain Heinz when surprised inside the house. 3-17-45

Blalock went on trial in the Decatur court Monday morning. The state presented its case principally around an alleged confession, which, signed in Fulton Tower, stated that the defendant had committed the crime during a burglary attempt. On the stand, however, in his unsworn statement, Blalock denied knowledge of the crime and said that he was doped and threatened into signing the alleged confession. The state also claimed that a fingerprint found on blinds inside the Heinz home corresponded to that of Blalock. 3-17-45

ATTACK CONFESSION

Defense counsel bitterly attacked the alleged confession and circumstances surrounding the part played by two of the state's chief witnesses, the widow of the deceased and her son-in-law by a former marriage, Dr. B. K. Vann, at the time of the arrival of officers on the scene. Dr. Vann was shot by one of the officers, who said he was behind a clump of bushes when their patrol car drove up. Dr. Vann denied this in rebuttal cross-examination testimony.

Blalock Case Ruled Mistrial

Pittsburgh Courier
3-24-45 Pa.

DECATUR, Ga.—(ANP)—A mistrial was declared last week in the case of Horace Blalock, railroad worker, charged with the 1943 slaying of Henry C. Heinz, wealthy white banker and former president of Rotary International.

The all-white jury, which for three days had heard dramatic appeals by prosecution and defense, remained hopelessly deadlocked after six hours' deliberation. Judge James C. Davis ordered the mistrial.

Blalock was arrested Jan. 9 of this year and allegedly confessed to the mysterious slaying, which the State contended occurred during a death struggle in the banker's mansion in north Atlanta Sept. 22, 1943. 3-24-45

ATTACK "CONFESSION"

The "confession" crudely written and purportedly signed by Blalock, was the target of attack by defense counsel Joe Ewing and James Venable, who argued that it was exacted by police after sixteen hours' continuous grilling.

In his unsworn statement to the jurors Tuesday, Blalock denied any knowledge of the Heinz slaying and said he had been framed and drugged by the squadron of detectives who subjected him to the grueling third degree.

U. S. SOLDIER HANGS IN INDIA

Chicago Defender
The 4-7-45

By DETON J. BROOKS JR.
(Defender War Correspondent)

LEDO, India—In the cold grey dawn last Thursday morning Pvt. Herman Perry, Washington, D. C., paid with his life by hanging for the fatal shooting of a company officer on March 15, 1944.

Recaptured on March 10 after a desperate escape from the local stockade last December while awaiting sentence, Perry calmly went out to the gallows with a word of prayer on his lips for his aged mother and a request that his battalion chaplain, who was present, write to her.

The shooting occurred when 1st Lt. Harold A. Cody, white, attached to the engineering company of which Perry was a member, tried to disarm him at a point 70 miles along the Ledo Road after he had refused to return to camp from where he had broken arrest.

Takes Native Girl For Wife

After killing the officer Perry took to the jungle-covered hills where he lived with Naga tribesmen, taking one of their girls as his wife. Finally, after four and a half months, following one of the army's most intensive manhunts, he was wounded and captured on July 20, when Naga guides directed American military police to him.

Upon his recovery he stood trial last September and was condemned to death by general court martial for murder and desertion. The execution was delayed until sentence was reviewed by the theater commander and judge advocate in Washington.

It was during this time, on a foggy December morning last year armed with a pair of wire clippers, he cut through three barbed wire barricades to again dash for freedom. 4-7-45

Calm in Face of Death

With criminal investigators and military police relentlessly on his trail, he was tracked down and finally caught in a dragnet about 20 miles from here last week.

Mannerly and well-bred when not cornered, Perry won the admiration of officers forced to witness the execution for his cool courage in the face of certain death. Never once did he break, even as he walked upstairs to the gallows platform.

ACQUITTED OF MURDER

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — (ANP) —An Alabama jury last week acquitted a 16-year-old Negro boy, Will Lacey, of second degree murder in connection with the death of Willie Angel, a 42-year-old white man on the John Wall place near Whitesburg.

WHITE MAN FROM ARKANSAS ATTACKS NEGRO WAITER ON UNION PACIFIC TRAIN

Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kansas
3-9-45

Sharon Springs, Kan.—A dining car waiter, William B. Bruce, 17, is facing a first degree murder charge filed by James Taylor, Wallace County attorney, following the fatal stabbing of Homer J. Clark, white, of Monticello, Ark. Monday night, February 21, on a Union Pacific train number 38. Preliminary hearing is set for Saturday, March 10. According to reports, two Denver lawyers will represent Bruce, who lives in Denver. His attorneys will ask that the case be dismissed on self defense. Bruce was arrested at Oakley, Kansas by Under-Sheriff Dewey Garrett after he had been taken from the train for treatment from the beating and kicking received from the white passenger, who acted as if he had been drinking, prior to the fatal stabbing. 3-9-45

Several versions of the incident have been reported and appeared in the daily newspapers. One version is that Bruce was selling his sandwiches in the aisle of the train when the white man asked for a sandwich and coffee. When the boy asked Clark to wait a minute the man demanded that he "get that junk out of the aisle," that he had been blocking traffic long enough.

The two men are said to have gone into a clinch and when Clark threw the boy into the hallway and then jumped on him and beat him about the head, a porter came forth and tried to stop the fight. When Bruce got up he opened his knife and swung at the passenger, but missed and struck instead the porter.

The next blow however, got the white man just below the heart. Bruce threw the knife out of the window but it was later found on a platform at Wallace, nine miles east of Sharon. Clark was taken to a hospital where he died.

Another version is that the white man started molesting the waiter shortly after the train left Denver each time that he came through the car with his basket of sandwiches and coffee. The white man's wife, Mrs. Clark, is reported to have ask her husband to let the waiter alone. Bruce served two white women and asked for sales tax. The white man is supposed to have cut in and ask the ladies if that damn "nigger" returned the correct change. Later the white man asked Bruce for an empty cup from his basket. Bruce is supposed to have refused because the sales of coffee is checked against the cups by the company. When he refused the white man a cup, the report is that Clark struck the waiter and knocked him down. The sandwiches, cream, sugar and coffee were spilled all over the aisle of the train. The report is that Bruce got back to his feet. He was struck again and knocked to the floor. While on the floor, he was kicked and stomped by the white man. When he got back to his feet, he came forth swinging his knife and cut the train porter by mistake and finally knifed his attacker.

Theporter was treated at Ellis and returned to Denver. Bruce and the white man were taken from the train at Oakley, Kansas. The white man was sent to Colby where he died two hours later.

Bruce has been working for the Union Pacific for 14 months and has a good record.

Ga. High Court Scores 3rd Degree

ATLANTA — (ANP) — Criticizing severely third-degree methods employed by State highway patrolmen in inflicting "mental torture" on Nernie Coker, Tift County farmhand, the Georgia Supreme Court Wednesday granted Coker, under death sentence, a new trial in a murder case.

The court quoted three officers as saying they grilled Coker from 2:30 p.m. until daylight the next morning following his arrest in the middle of the previous night and procured a confession when they took him to headquarters to resume the grilling.

"Worse than Beating"

"It is our opinion that the mental torture suffered by the defendant in the instant case was more severe than would have been physical torture in the case of a beating," the court said, adding: "Certainly it was continued longer."

The high court pointed out that Coker was an uneducated country boy in his late teens and cried when the grilling was resumed then confessed in about 15 minutes. Later, he repudiated the confession, and the court held that it should not have been used as evidence against him.

Coker, who lived in the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Overby, white, was charged with hiding in a hayloft and shooting Mr. Overby. Mrs. Overby, as a result of Coker's confession, was charged with conspiracy in the case, but has never been brought to trial.

Blalock Guilty in Heinz Death

Atlanta Constitution
3-17-45 Ga.

Given Life by Judge; Defense Attorneys To Seek New Trial

After being closeted for two days and nights, a jury in DeKalb superior court has found Horace Blalock, Negro, guilty of the murder of Henry C. Heinz, Atlanta capitalist, and recommended him to the mercy of the court.

Under the jury's verdict, as was mandatory, the trial judge, James C. Davis, sentenced Blalock to life imprisonment.

The present Georgia law will make Blalock eligible for parole after serving seven years in the state penitentiary.

Blalock was arrested by Fulton county police early in January, after Hughes Spalding, Fulton county attorney, had discovered a burglar in his Peachtre road home. Blalock's fingerprints matched those found on a venetian blind in the living room of the Heinz home, police officers investigating the Heinz murder, reported. After grilling Blalock for several hours, officers announced he had written and signed a confession stating he had slain Heinz while burglarizing the latter's home.

When he took the stand in his own behalf Tuesday in Decatur, Blalock accused the officers of "roping" him, and declared he did ot know what he had written or said. He said they gave him an orange beverage to drink, and that he became dizzy immediately after drinking it. 3-17-45

About a dozen burglary cases are now pending against Blalock in the Fulton superior court, officers claiming he confessed to numerous Peachtree road burglaries. At the murder trial, Fulton offi-

Baton Rouge Negro Admits Killing Woman

Montgomery Advertiser

BATON ROUGE, LA., Aug. 27. — (AP) — Sheriff Newman deBretton and Dist. Atty. Dewey Sanchez announced tonight that a 17-year-old negro had confessed the slaying of Mrs. Tal Cheatham Stanley, aristocratic, elderly clubwoman. Ala.

They said the negro, Henry Riley, would be charged with murder when district court opens Tuesday. 8-29-45

Sheriff deBretton termed the slaying "about the most brutal thing I ever saw."

Negro Employe Kills Saloon Keeper's Wife

Montgomery Advertiser (Ala.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 29.—(U.P.) —A Negro employe of a New Orleans saloon walked into the establishment today, asked the owner's wife for a soft drink and then shot her three times, police reported tonight. 12-30-45

The woman, Mrs. Lena Gambino, died en route to a hospital.

Walter Williams, 33, was arrested and charged with murder. Mrs. Gambino's husband told officers that Williams had accused his wife on several occasions of trying to have him fired.

43e-1945

Maryland

Convicted Negro Brothers Win Right to Appeal

Special to the Daily Worker

BALTIMORE, Aug. 23.—Weldon and Holbrook Jones, 18 and 15-year-old Negro brothers who were convicted of killing a White Eastern Shore oyster packer, have won an appeal.

The appeal will go before the court in October, when the fall session begins.

The boys were convicted of first degree murder last March in Salisbury, Md., one month after they had been hurried from their Chance, Md., home to prevent a lynching. Eighteen-year old Weldon is sentenced to hang and 15-year old Holbrook to life imprisonment.

Their appeal, handled by W. A. C. Hughes for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is based on the following facts:

1. Refusal of the Salisbury court to grant the motion that the boys be tried in some other judicial circuit than that including Salisbury, only 30 miles from their home.

2. Refusal of the court to try the boys separately.

3. Refusal of the court to exclude all witnesses from the room during the trial.

3. Allowing a state trooper to refer to the alleged assaults upon two white women by the boys while he was testifying in the murder case.

4. Using the alleged oral confessions of the boys against each one, although the statements were supposedly taken by state troopers while the boys were separated.

Both the boys have denied the crime from the beginning. They still insist that they made no confessions, written or oral.

43e-1945

New Mexico

Negro Convict Admits Slaying Young Woman In Santa Fe Flat

Birmingham, Ala. Birmingham News 11-23-45

SANTA FE, N. M., Nov. 23—(AP)—A speedy trial and the death penalty are to be sought for Louis Young, Negro convict named by Asst. Dist. Atty. Bert Clancy as the slayer of Mrs. Eloise Kennedy, 23, prominent in Santa Fe society.

Clancy said he had prepared murder charges for filing today against Young, serving his fourth term, and would ask a special court term to hear the case ahead of the regular term next March. He declared he would demand a death penalty.

The prosecutor announced solution of the killing to a 3:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day press conference. He said Young, formerly of Houston, Tex., had signed a confession.

Assigned as an outside trusty to State Police Headquarters, the convict Monday did housecleaning at the apartment of State Police Chief Frank Young, Clancy reported, and wandered into the apartment occupied by Mrs. Kennedy and her husband, Leon G. Kennedy, Jr., Santa Fe bank employe and son of a Denver bank vice president.

Kennedy returned from work to find his pretty blond wife on the bathroom floor. Examination disclosed 11 knife wounds.

These developments followed Clancy's announcement:

Gov. J. J. Dempsey announced that at Police Chief Young's request he had relieved him of his duties. 11-23-45

In Albuquerque, John Simms, chairman of the State Prison Board, said no action has been taken or is contemplated by his office against the police chief.

being critized for sending the Negro to clean his apartment.

Actions Described

Clancy stated that the convict wandered from the Young apartment into an adjacent one occupied by the 23-year-old Mrs. Kennedy and her husband, Leon G. Kennedy, Jr., chief bookkeeper of the First National Bank and son of a Denver bank vice president.

Kennedy, returning home from work about 5:30 p.m. Monday, found his pretty, blond wife in a pool of blood in the bathroom. She had been stabbed 11 times, once over the heart, and her jugular vein was severed. Her five-year-old daughter was crying in her crib in the bedroom. 11-23-45

Authorities moved swiftly last night after finding the weapon used, near the apartment. Clancy announced at 3:30 a.m. that he had obtained a "full confession." He refused to divulge any of the details or to disclose the type of weapon used, but other sources said it was a butcher knife.

Convict Questioned

The convict, found asleep in his cell, was questioned shortly after it was determined that Mrs. Kennedy had been slain and again at the inquest the next day. But he related such a straightforward story that authorities predicted "the convict soon will be eliminated as a suspect."

Young is serving 10 years for an Albuquerque burglary in 1941. He previously had been sentenced three times in Texas for burglaries.

Police Chief Young said: "If I hadn't thought he was perfectly all right, I wouldn't have sent him to my home where my wife and daughter were."

Clancy said charges would be filed tomorrow. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday he had not conferred with the court on whether a special term would be called to hear the case. The regular term convenes in March. 11-23-45

The prosecutor stated he would demand the death penalty.

TRUSTY ADMITS SLAYING WOMAN

Birmingham Age-Herald. Birmingham Ala.

SANTA FE, N. M., Nov. 22—(AP)—A Negro serving a fourth term in prison signed a confession today, said District Atty. Bert Clancy, that he killed the socially prominent Mrs. Eloise Kennedy while assigned to housecleaning duties by State Police Chief Frank Young.

Clancy said first degree murder charges had been prepared against the convict, Louis Young, 44, who had been asigned to State Police Headquarters as a trusty.

Gov. John J. Dempsey announced almost immediately that he had relieved Chief Young of his duties "at Mr. Young's request." The police head said he realized he was being criticized for sending the Negro to clean his apartment.

Clancy said that first degree charges had been prepared against the convict, Louis Young, 44, who had been assigned to State Police Headquarters as a trusty.

Governor John J. Dempsey announced almost immediately that he had relieved Chief Young of his duties "at Mr. Young's request." The police head said he realized he was being criticized for sending the Negro to clean his apartment.

Clancy stated that the convict wandered from the Young apartment into an adjacent one occupied by the 23-year-old Mrs. Kennedy and her husband, Leon G. Kennedy, Jr., chief bookkeeper of the First National Bank and son of a Denver bank vice-president.

Eleven Stab Wounds

11-23-45

Kennedy returning home from work about 5:30 P. M. Monday found his pretty, blonde wife in a pool of blood in the bathroom. She had been stabbed 11 times, once over the heart, and her jugular vein was severed. Her five-weeks-old daughter was crying in her crib in the bedroom.

A. B. Martinez, assistant State police chief, said at the time that rape had been attempted and physicians so indicated in their testimony at the inquest.

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Mrs. Eloise C. Kennedy
Young Mother Slain

Richmond Times Dispatch

Prison Trusty Held in Slaying Of Woman

11-23-45

Richmond, Va.

District Attorney Reports Confession

SANTA FE, N. M., Nov. 22—(AP)—A Negro serving a fourth term in prison signed a confession today, said District Attorney Bert Clancy, that he killed the

White Justice In Texas

The Atlanta Daily World, Atlanta Ga.

The governor of Texas has at last yeilded to the demands of an outraged public and intervened to commute the death sentence of a young Negro, L. C. Akins, to that of life imprisonment.

The facts show that on September 15, 1941 Akins left his work as a porter in a garage in North Dallas to go to his home across the river, where he had a crippled wife—she had lost both legs in an accident—and a child. He took a down town car, and about 8 o'clock, reached his transfer point. He secured his transfer and with a number of others walked toward the entrance of the car he wished to board. He reached the car and mounted the step. In so doing, reports say, Akins either brushed ahead of and jostled a young white woman, or her husband, who at her elbow, thought he did. The white man, Morris, was a policeman. He displayed no badge, neither was he at the time on duty. He jerked Akins from behind and a fight followed. In the struggle between the two the white policeman dropped his pistol after shooting and beating Akins. Akins in turn, snatched the gun from the ground and fired one shot. That shot killed Morris. Akins was put in jail, denied bail, tried and given a life sentence. The verdict was reversed. He was retried, given a death sentence. 10-21-45

The case has won nationwide attention and is destined to rank alongside of those of Angelo Herndon, Herman Powell and the Scottsboro trials. George Clifton Edwards, a white Dallas lawyer, moved by the demonstrated prejudice of the courts, charged in a signed article to the Nation, that Akins was given a death sentence solely because he is a Negro; that the grand jury specifically selected with his indictment in mind, was exclusively white, save one eighty year-old humble, "good" Negro member added to clear the law. The lawyer's statement shows, in addition, that the trial jury, the witnesses, the judge, court, officials and prosecutors were all white people. "If the survivor from such a fight were a white," declared Mr. Edwards, "it is doubtful that he would have been indicted anywhere in the state of Texas. And it is certain that he would not have been prosecuted for murder." 10-21-45

Friends of Akins are continuing the fight to secure his total freedom. Such a fight should be joined by all believers in civil justice and equality before the law.

43e-1945

Texas

Texas whites protest death sentence of Negro

Los Angeles Tribune Calif. 8-20-45

DALLAS—Several white people of this area have gone on record in unsolicited letters to community newspapers, against the scheduled electrocution of L. C. Akins for the fatal shooting of a white man.

Akins shot and killed V. L. Morris, a Dallas policeman, with Morris' own gun in a fight after the officer had shot him. Morris, who was off-duty, had pulled Akins from a street car after Akins had bumped against his wife while trying to get on the car.

After shooting Akins, Morris dropped his gun in the excitement. Akins seized it and fired one shot, killing Morris instantly.

In a letter to the Dallas Express, George Clifton Edwards, white, said:

"We, the people of Dallas, are about to commit a murder.

"If the wounded survivor of the fight had been a white man any where in Texas, he would have never been indicted. It is certain that the young white survivor of such a fight would not have been prosecuted for murder, and if indicted and put on trial, it is absolutely certain he would not have been convicted and given death.

"This being true, the only difference between the real case and the supposed one, being the color of the survivor's skin . . . We are about to murder a man because he is black. 8-20-45

"It makes no difference that he has been given the customary delays of Texas courts. It makes no difference that he was indicted by a grand jury specially selected for the purpose of indicting him and specially provided with one humble 'good' Negro to tinge the grand jury and to lay the basis for an evasion to the United States Supreme Court. The fact is, and all of us know it: we are killing a man because of his color. That is wrong. It is indefensibly wrong, and I protest against it, and I urge you likewise to protest."

Equal Justice

The Washington Post Wash. D.C. 9-26-45

A good deal of fuss is being made over the impending execution in Dallas of a Negro named L. C. Akins who killed a white policeman about four years ago. Of course, it is redundant to speak of a "white policeman" in Dallas, since that city does not employ policemen of any other color. And it is true that the policeman was not in uniform when he was killed, although he was carrying a gun. It is also true that the policeman picked a fight with Akins on a street car, pulled his gun and shot Akins, and was killed in the ensuing struggle by a shot from his own weapon. But, after all, the indictment, trial and sentencing of Akins were strictly legal—just as legal as shrewd prosecutors, with an eye on the Supreme Court's injunction against lily-white juries, could make them. They even went so far as to include one carefully selected, barely literate, 81-year-old Negro in the grand jury.

Writing in *The Nation*, a Dallas attorney, George Clifton Edwards, observes: "If the wounded survivor of the fight had been a white man, it is doubtful whether, anywhere in Texas, he would have even been indicted. It is certain that the white survivor of such a fight would not have been prosecuted for murder with malice. And if he had been indicted and put on trial, it is absolutely certain that he would not have been convicted and given a death sentence . . . In Texas the law justifies killing in defense of one's life. In Texas also there can be no murder without malice. In Texas, finally, with countless instances of fights and killings, no court and jury have ever convicted and given death to a white man who in deadly combat had killed his antagonist, with the antagonist's gun, after that antagonist had already shot him."

Well, the fact is that Akins is not white but black. And Texas has some unwritten law in this connection, too. So what's all the excitement for? He's better off than the Jews were in Germany under Hitler. He has certainly fared no worse than white men who came under the power of the Japanese. He got a trial, didn't he? This man's case can be of concern only to those people who like to think that democratic justice is different from totalitarian justice. It can cause alarm only to those people who believe that when injustice is done to any man, even the least among us, the liberty of all is endangered. It can excite only those people who place faith in the motto inscribed over the portals of the Supreme Court of the United States: "Equal justice under law." 9-26-45

Texas Board Advises Life for Doomed Negro

Daily Worker N.Y.; N.Y.

Life imprisonment, instead of the death penalty, for L. C. Akins, Texas Negro, was recommended yesterday by the Texas Board of Paroles and Pardons. With this recommendation, Texas Governor Coke Stevenson is now empowered to commute the death sentence.

Akins was sentenced after a struggle with a Dallas policeman whose wife accused the Negro of pushing her in a trolley. The policeman drew a gun, Akins took it from him and the gun was accidentally discharged.

Louis Coleman, secretary of the International Labor Defense, yesterday described the board's action as the "result of literally thousands of telegrams and letters sent from every part of the country in response to the ILD's campaign to save Akins' life."

At the same time, Coleman pointed out that the Governor has not yet acted and that the act of communting an innocent man's sentence to life imprisonment is not enough.

"We urge an intensification of the flood of telegrams to Gov. Coke Stevenson, Austin, Texas, demanding that he save the life of Akins and restore his freedom," Coleman said.

The case which has received nation-wide attention was carried by Attorneys Baskett and Durham to the Supreme Court after Akins had been given the death penalty and a life sentence in Dallas. The Supreme Court assessed a death penalty and the execution was set for September 7, when Governor Stevenson gave Akins a 30-day reprieve.

During the 30-day interval, efforts to get the commutation were doubled and a reported 650 messages, recommendations and letters from outside Texas added to several hundreds within the state poured into the governor's office.

One letter protesting the use of "ILK of Harry Bridges" in reference to those who pleaded for Akins' life, stated that an article in the "Nation" to the effect that the Dallas policeman who was in civilian clothes at the time, grabbed Akins from behind and jerked him from the car to the street. . . struck him on the head with a pistol and then shot him through the body had not been disputed, and the writer added that Akins had no way of knowing whether or not the policeman was a highjacker or was shooting him through mistaken identity.

Protest of the use of "ILK of Harry Bridges" grew out of an allegation that an article in the "Nation" by Attorney George Clifton said that messages from all over the United States to Governor Stevenson were asking that the sentence be commuted and the governor only gave the name of one outside of the State of Texas and that was Harry Bridges.

Bridges, CIO labor leader of the West Coast, was tried and sentenced to be deported but he appealed the case and it was reversed by the high court and he has been admitted to American citizenship. The use of Bridges' name was tagged unfair to Akins by the writer.

Typical of the messages sent to the Governor is the following:

"Cognizant as I am that you are receiving thousands of letters from all over the State, from organizations, associations, clubs, fraternal societies and churches, in behalf of one L. C. Akins, a Negro, who in self defense shot and killed a white policeman, off duty, in civilian dress and unknown to Akins as an officer of the law, my letter comes as a layman, a believer in God, a native Texan of more than a half century from the small town, Marlin, of a studious and political mind.

"My reason for writing you is because I have known of you for a number of years through such honorable gentlemen as Congressman Jack Beall, Senator Charles A. Culberson, former Governor James Fergurson, et al. I remember very distinctly having heard one of these distinguished gentlemen say of you, 'Young Coke Stevenson will succeed in whatever he undertakes because he has two minds, his own and the mind of God revealed unto him, thus his firm belief in God makes him a success.'

"In view of this statement from this eminent statesman, I write you, not to ask of you to commute, a pardon or reprieve Akins, but to say, after your communion with God, DO whatever he commands of you and this I am quite sure you will DO. I do not know Akins or the officer of the law—I do not know his wife whom they say is a cripple nor do I know his child— all that I know is 'Young Coke Stevenson will succeed in whatever he undertakes, because of that duel mind of his, I am well aware you know the case—the trials and the sentences.

"Only you and God know why you granted Akins a reprieve. I can only remember, 'Young Coke Stevenson has a dual mind, his own and the mind of God, etc.' I sincerely believe if you after communing with God and He speaks in favor of Akins, you will commute him, regardless of anyone or anybody."

Death Sentence Is Commuted To Life; Many Wrote Letters

The Informer Houston Texas 10-6-45

AUSTIN — The long fight made by the NAACP, other organizations, and by individuals for the life of L. C. Akins, convicted and sentenced to die for the 1941 slaying of a Dallas policeman brought results Thursday, September 27, when Governor Coke Stevenson approved the board of pardons and paroles' recommendation for life imprison-

10-6-45

SAVED BY THE GOVERNOR—L. C. Akins, sentenced to die for the killing of a Dallas policeman, was commuted to a life sentence by Governor Coke Stevenson last week.—See story on this page

Hearing May Save Afro-American Condemned Texan

Baltimore, Md. 9-29-45

AUSTIN, Tex.—James H. Martin, recently an assistant to District Attorney Dean Gauldin, has asked the State Board of Pardons and Paroles for a hearing next Monday when he will represent L. C. Akins, scheduled to die in the electric chair Oct. 7, for killing a Dallas policeman.

Martin, now in private practice, served under Dean Gauldin when he prosecuted and convicted Akins, and hence is thoroughly familiar with the evidence and circumstances of the case.

Wife Started Trouble

The officer, off duty at the time and not in uniform, drew his gun when his wife said Akins jostled her while boarding a street car. A scuffle followed during which Akins seized the gun and pulled the trigger.

Thousands of white and colored citizens in Dallas and beyond Texas who heard of the case through PM and the Nation, have petitioned the Board and Governor Coke Stevenson to lighten the sentence.

Many letters and telegrams have flooded the Governor's office, but he can not commute the sentence unless the Board recommends it. The three-man Board has consented to hear Martin's plea for mercy, and will make a decision before Oct. 7, the execution date.

Down Texas Way

Akins Escapes Electric Chair.

The Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
10-6-45

AUSTIN, Texas—Governor Coke R. Stevenson, answering the unanimous plea of the Texas Board of Pardons and public protest from every section of the country, Saturday granted life imprisonment for L. C. Aikins instead of death in the electric chair. Akins had been sentenced to die for killing a white man during an argument four years ago as to whether the Negro had brushed against the white man.

KILLED POLICEMAN WITH OWN PISTOL

The white man, L. V. Morris, a policeman off duty, was killed with his own pistol after Akins had been wounded. 10-6-45

The case attracted Nation-wide publicity, and, according to Ernest Boyette, secretary to the governor, hundreds of letters and telegrams were received asking clemency for the condemned man. Boyette also stated that the governor made a thorough study of the testimony and of the letters and telegrams received before making his decision.

ILD Acts In Texas Legal Lynching

Savannah (Ga.) Tribune

New York. (ANP) — The International Labor defense has swung into action to help save L. C. Akins, sentenced to die in Dallas on Oct. 6 for killing a white policeman in self-defense.

Anti-"white supremacy" Americans in every part of the country were mobilized by telephone, wire and mail, to press Gov. Coke Stevenson of Texas to set aside the death verdict and free Akins.

The full story of the case, which the United States Supreme court refused to revise, was told this week in the magazine "The Nation" which published an article on it by George Clifton Edwards, whom it described as "a Dallas attorney who has had no connection with the case." 9-22-45

Akins, in 1941, was assaulted by a white policeman as he stepped onto a Dallas street car. The policeman struck Akins and shot him through the body. Akins defended himself and tussled with his assailant who dropped his gun. In the struggle Akins picked up the gun and shot his attacker, killing him. 9-22-45

Akins was sentenced originally to life imprisonment, won a new trial on the grounds that Negroes had been excluded from the trial jury. One Negro was impanelled on the jury that tried Akins a second time, but did not serve. Akins was sentenced to death. The United States Supreme court has refused a second revival on the grounds that presence of a single Negro on the panel satisfied it. Chief Justice Stone and Justices Black and Murphy dissented.

"The majority of the supreme court," the ILD said, "has abdicated its responsibility as the same court did in the Sacco-Vanzetti case—on the basis of a flimsy technicality."

NEW YORK CITY. "THE NATION"
SEPTEMBER 29, 1945

L. C. AKINS, A YOUNG NEGRO, IS SENTENCED TO die on October 6. The case was fully analyzed by George Clifton Edwards, an attorney of Dallas, Texas, in *The Nation* of September 15. The facts presented made it evident that had Akins been white he probably would not have been indicted—certainly he would not have been indicted on a charge of murder with malice. And if he had been brought to trial it is unthinkable that he would have been convicted. The report shows that a white man was killed in a fight with Akins. The white man, a policeman off duty, had attacked Akins as he was boarding a street car, accusing him of having jostled his wife. The policeman wounded Akins with his gun; later Akins secured the gun and shot his assailant. With the exception of one eighty-year-old and almost illiterate Negro—included to meet the technical requirement of "non-discrimination"—the grand jury was entirely white. The trial jury, witnesses, judge, court officials, prosecution were all white. Akins's fate rests in the hands of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles. Telegrams should be directed to its chairman, Elster M. Haile, State Capitol, Austin, Texas. There is still a chance that the awakened public conscience, Southern as well as Northern, will save a man's life and remove a stain from the annals of American justice.

A Victory In Dallas

The Pittsburgh Courier Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

For four years the Dallas, Texas branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, under the leadership of dynamic A. Maceo Smith, fought to save a Negro worker, L. C. Akins, from the death chair, and now it has won.

Instead of going to the electric chair, Akins will stay in prison for the rest of his life—unless a commutation of sentence can later be secured. 10-13-45

The action of Governor Coke Stevenson on recommendation of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, was forced by the militant and intelligent fight waged by the NAACP branch and interested persons everywhere, plus legal aid from the NAACP lawyers.

The branch secured thousands of petitions urging the Governor to set aside the death sentence.

This shows what can be done by an intelligent and militant body of citizens determined to see justice triumph.

If it can be done in Texas in the case of a Negro whose "crime" was killing a policeman with his own gun after the officer had attacked him without provocation, then it can be done anywhere else.

The more widely it is understood that Negroes who are wrongfully dealt with are going to be vigorously and expertly defended by colored people, the less frequently will those in authority attempt to mistreat and "railroad" Negroes to prison.

The Dallas Negroes are to be congratulated for waging such a successful fight for right.

They should continue to exert themselves in this man's behalf until he is freed from prison.

43e-1945

Virginia

Ex-Inmate Of State Colony

Journal and Guide
Louisville Kentucky

Youngest In Family Of Ten Children;; Confesses Crime

12-1-45

By ALBERT L. HINTON

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—A frail, sallow-complexioned, 16-year-old boy, a typical product of this city's slums, who enjoyed the dubious distinction of having been turned down for commitment by both the State Department of Public Welfare and the State Colony for Feeble-minded Children, is scheduled to face a Corporation Court grand jury on a double murder charge here on Jan. 14.

He is Clyde Rooks, whose real-life story rivals, and in some respects far surpasses, the fictional career of Bigger Thomas in Richard Wright's "Native Son." The boy, who is slightly less than five feet in height, and weighs not more than a hundred pounds, has amassed a police record which even a hardened criminal would envy, according to the files of the local police department. 12-1-45

The lad has been formally charged with the slaying of Ole Anton "Pontoon" Haavind, 80-year-old Norwegian watchman at the Warwick Machine company, on the night of last April 22, and the death of Thomas R. Jones, 73, of 620 27th street, who was found dead in the washroom of the Weaver Brothers Lumber company on the early morning of last May 8.

VICTIM SHOT THROUGH LEFT CHEST 12-1-45

Investigating officers say that Jones had been shot through the left chest, with the bullet passing all the way through his body and emerging under the right arm. The police also said there were several abrasions on the skull. Acting City Coroner Dr. Louis Loeb said that death was probably due to a fractured skull. 12-1-45

Haavind, according to the police, was found lying unconscious and had been severely beaten over the head with an iron pipe which was found nearby. His assailant had sneaked up and assaulted him from behind, it was said. He died sometime later at a local hospital. Both of the victims were night watchmen, and both had been robbed of their pocketbooks and money, the investigating officers reported.

Arrested recently for questioning in connection with several charges of housebreaking, larceny, and breaking in cars, Rooks confessed to both of the slayings, according to Captain of Detectives W. F. Peach, who said that he has known the accused boy all of his life.

ORDERED HELD FOR GRAND JURY

The frail, pasty-faced youth was ordered held for the action of the January term of the Corporation Court grand jury following preliminary hearing before Juvenile Justice John W. Massey last week. 12-1-45

The youngest in a family of ten children, the accused boy lived at 452 27th street, and had his first encounter with the law at the tender age of six years, local police records reveal.

Investigating officers, who have questioned Rooks very closely, quote him as saying that he never got enough to eat at home and very frequently he was forced to beg for food on the streets, while his mother at one time, at least, worked for three dollars a week in an attempt to feed her brood.

The boy has also been questioned in connection with at least 14 breakins of boats at the small boat harbor, in at least a dozen thefts of merchandise in automobiles and auto sales rooms, and the robbery of the C. and O. shops here.

HAS NO LAWYER

Early this week the accused youth was still without benefit of legal advice, and the opinion was expressed in some quarters that the court would appoint a lawyer to handle his defense before he is brought to trial in Corporation Court. 12-1-45

On Saturday of last week Rooks was taken by Captain Peach and Commonwealth's Attorney William L. Carleton, to the scenes of the alleged slayings, and fully reenacted the crimes, the officials stated.

Committed to the Petersburg State Colony for Feeble-minded Children at one time in his checkered career, Rooks escaped after five-and-a-half months while playing with another group of children outside the gate.

"I just ran off," was the way local officers quoted him as describing his escape. It was shortly afterwards that Haavind was slain, investigating officers said. 12-1-45

The possibility that officials of both the State Colony for Feeble-minded Children and the State Department of Public Welfare, might be summoned as witnesses at the youth's trial loomed with the revelation that both institutions at different times had refused to accept him for commitment on the plea that they were not the right type of institution to care for such cases.

PLACED IN CUSTODY OF MOTHER

Subsequent to this development, Rooks was committed and held in the local jail for several months and when no one would accept him was finally placed on probation and released in custody of his mother. Police officers aided him in getting a job afterwards, it was learned.

Rooks' oldest sister is dead, it was learned, but he has two others who are married and live here. His oldest brother was recently discharged from the Army after a tour of overseas duty. 12-1-45

Mercy Spares Second Cox Killer From Chair; Gets 99-Year Term

The Journal and Guide - Louisville, Kentucky

NORFOLK—Although the prosecution fenced him in with a mountain of virtually invulnerable evidence in an effort to send him to the electric chair, Frank Peterson, on trial in Corporation Court No. 1 for the slaying of Horace H. Cox, white automobile dealer, emerged on Nov. 2 with no worse penalty decreed for him than confinement in the penitentiary for 99 years and one day.

FOUND GUILTY 12-1-45

At the conclusion of the trial which began Monday morning, the jury found the accused guilty of murder in the first degree, but refrained from meting out the death penalty. He was the second defendant to be convicted for the murder. Ernest Edward Fagan, 30, of North Carolina, who was tried Oct. 30-31, had his punishment fixed at death.

Practically the same evidence presented against Fagan was used against Peterson, 24-year-old South Carolinian, except mainly for Peterson's own alleged confession.

The verdict was returned after one hour of deliberations. As the majority of the spectators expected a verdict of death, they were somewhat surprised when the jury returned to the courtroom to inquire of the judge if the defendant were given a life sentence would he ever be eligible for a pardon.

Judge Richard B. Spindle replied that the pardoning power is a constitutional function not resting with the court. The jury returned in 15 minutes and submitted its verdict. 12-1-45

FIGHTS DESPERATELY

Peterson, defended by able counsel, taking the witness stand in his own behalf, fought desperately for practically an hour to escape the extreme penalty. While 25 witnesses had poured out testimony linking him with the Cox murder, the defendant flatly denied every allegation directly naming him as one of the two men who slew the automobile dealer.

Unlike Fagan, who, on the witness stand, practically substantiated word for word statements attributed to him in a purportedly signed confession, Peterson gave a blunt repudiation of all statements said to have been made by him in a similar confession. Moreover, he charged that the alleged admissions attributed to him were extracted by force, or, he did not make them at all.

He denied all knowledge of the crime, and protested that Fagan, in complicity with investigating officers, "framed" him. The accused said that Fagan bore ill-will against him, probably due to the fact, as alleged, he, Peterson, had been "running around" with Fagan's wife. The defendant told the jury, under questioning by John S. Stansfield of Aiken, S. C., that himself and Fagan had frequently squabbled over gambling losses, and that on one occasion Fagan had chased him from a house with a pistol. 12-1-45

DENIES ACQUAINTANCE

Peterson claimed to have been acquainted with Fagan for only a few months, and said that the last time the two were in company was on a day in June of this year. Positively denying complicity in the killing, the defendant testified that at the time Cox was killed, he was engaged in instructing a white lad, Robert Levian, 16, how to drive an automobile. Levian was put on the stand by the defense. He admitted that the defendant had been employed from time to time to teach him auto driving, but failed to corroborate the statement that Peterson was so engaged at the time Cox was killed.

IMPASSIONED PLEA

Gordon E. Campbell, court-appointed defense counsel, mopping his perspiring brow with a pocket handkerchief, made an impassioned plea for mercy for his client. He also fought hard to give to the defendant the benefit of what he termed might conceivably be reasonable doubt.

Eloquently quoting the Biblical adjuration, "Thou shalt not kill," Campbell said he believed the ends of justice could be served by a life sentence, even if the jury agreed with the prosecution's version of the case.

PLEADS WITH JURY

With moving oratory, such as seldom characterizes the courtroom, the lawyer pleaded with the jury "not to take a human life." He declared that it was his conviction that the state's evidence did not justify the extreme penalty for the accused.

Stansfield, examining the defendant, called to his attention every material statement made in the alleged confession, then roared, "is that true or false?" Frequently, even before the lawyer had completed his sentences, the witness exclaimed, either, "it's false," "not true," or "I didn't make that statement!" Completing the examination, Stansfield had drawn from Peterson a blanket denial of every part of the [illegible] which one of them it was," he said.

TALKED TO FAGAN

Asked if he had been locked up in a cell with Fagan shortly after his arrest, and what was the nature of the conversation, if any, he had with him, Peterson said he remembered all the officers failed to identify any- cers who had anything to do with it." "You know I struck him. "Fagan," he stated. "You're a lucky man, the night I was came home and shot at my wife. I remember, was on my way to find and kill

OFFICERS CALLED

The witness declared that he told the investigating officers, "I can't stand it any longer, and I'll tell just who did it." At this point Judge Spindle asked Peterson if he had any marks the officers failed to identify the man or men who had hit him. The accused, looking at them as having struck him. "You know I said, "I was telling them everything you want me to say." "They beat me," he declared, "I questioning Peterson to could not tell just who had been sick, and I was ready to sign anything." The judge asked the prosecution, "I kept saying I didn't know and that the detectives would none, but told the judge he had said all the questions anything about it, but every time Peterson so scared that I don't remember who had hit him. Peterson was struck five times. Asked directly who had hit him, Peterson replied, "you will know something about it."

you, but the law got me first."

Testifying regarding the confession, Peterson said he told the investigating officers, "I ain't got much education. I can't make a statement like that, (meaning the one similar to that allegedly made by Fagan) so they told a woman what to write down and she wrote it just like they told her."

TELL IN DETAIL 12-1-45

The confession, as read to the jury, told in minute detail of the part the prisoner allegedly played in the killing.

In it Peterson is claimed to have told the officers that on Sept. 4, the day Cox was killed, at about 2 p. m., Fagan came to his home at 967 Washington avenue. Mrs. Willie Mae Perry, the landlady, responding to a knock on the door, notified Peterson who was in his room, that someone at the door wished to see him.

Peterson came downstairs and was confronted at the front door by Fagan. They, in company, went to the establishment at the corner of Washington avenue and Chapel street where they drank several bottles of beer. Here they were joined by two unnamed men and two unnamed women. The sextet after drinking more beer together, rode around in an automible, stopping to purchase whiskey, which they drank in a "good time," until Peterson left the car and went home. Remaining in the house a few minutes, he went back to the Chapel street establishment where he again joined Fagan, who asked, "have you got any money?" Peterson, according to the statement said he had about $7, and told Fagan that he might have any part of that. Fagan declined to take any of the money, saying "we are going to make some money," at the same time displaying a .45 calibre revolver. He then allegedly informed Peterson what was planned, stating "I have already telephoned Cox, and he'll be here in a short while."

Details of how the two allegedly accompanied Mr. Cox to his place of business, then down town, were related in the supposed confession, which at one point, stated that while Cox had gone in the downtown bank, and the two men awaited his return to his automobile, Peterson said to Fagan, "I hate to do this, I've never done anything like it in my life," whereupon Fagan assured him by saying "You won't have to do anything, just come along with me."

COX'S REMARKS 12-1-45

Mr. Cox, according to Peterson's alleged statement, after having driven the two men around the city a good deal, remarked to Fagan, known to him as Charles Johnson, "I can't stay with you all day, I've got to get back to my business, what do you intend to do, I believe you're half drunk, anyway."

The automobile dealer was slain at the intersection of Norwood avenue and Ludlow streets on the afternoon of Sept. 4, after having driven to the spot accompanied in his car by two colored men on the pretext that one of them wished to sell him an automobile.

GOT SMALL SHARE

Peterson, according to the alleged confession, said that after the robbery and murder had been committed, and the two had gone to the house at 634 Cumberland street to divide the loot, Fagan gave him $366, of the supposed $1,395, but a few minutes later asked for the return of $100, which Peterson said, he gave him.

The prisoner explained that his trip to New York shortly after the killing, was made to visit a sick relative. He admitted that when he put his initials, F. P., on the typewritten statements attributed to him, he had already been shown statements made by Johnnie Lee, Mrs. Daisy Lester, her husband, Robert Lester and George Ruffin, all incriminating him.

WATSON TESTIFIES

Capt. Watson testified that after both Fagan and Peterson had allegedly made their confessions, Fagan said to the detective chief, "tell him," meaning Peterson, "that I didn't talk on him."

Capt. Watson testified that the statements attributed to Peterson had been voluntarily made.

All of the colored witnesses who had testified as to seeing Fagan and Peterson counting out money repeated the testiomny against the latter. 12-1-45

MAKES REBUTTAL

Mrs. Leona Fagan, wife of Peterson's alleged companion, denied intimacy with the accused.

Prosecutors, Commonwealth's Attorney J. Sydney Smith and his assistant, H. Lawrence Bullock, outlined the State's version of the case before the jury, and demanded the death penalty.

THE DEFENSE

The defense conceded that the slaying was perpetrated by two colored men, but sought definitely to prove that Peterson was not on the scene of the slaying.

Peterson's aged mother, Mrs. Catherine Peterson, or Morgan, S. C., sat at his side throughout the trial.

Youth, 17, Admits a Killing

The Call

Missing Cap Traps Boy in Shooting Case

Kansas City, Mo.

A. G. Powell, 17, 1312 Woodland Ave., confessed to police Wednesday that he was the one who shot and killed Tony Bill Jackson, clerk in a liquor store at 1401 E. 15th St., on Nov. 15, when Powell and his companion, Raymond Tucker, who is being held for qestioning by Independence, Mo., police, in connection with the shooting of Mrs. Hattie Trow, Independence housekeeper, on Tuesday, attempted to hold up the liquor clerk.

The surprise confession came when Powell, along with 11 other Negroes, were being detained in the search for Mrs. Trow's assailant and after Lt. Welch of the homicide bureau had confronted Powell with a cap found near the scene of the liquor store slaying. Powell finally admitted the cap belonged to him, and after hours of questioning, told the whole story of the attempted liquor store holdup. 12-21-45

Says Tucker Insisted

Powell related that Raymond Tucker, whom he has known for several months, came to his room during the month of November and asked him if he would like to participate in a holdup of a liquor store. Powell said that he didn't like the idea at first but that Tucker insisted, saying that they could get at least $300 out of the deal. Powell said the next day Tucker came to see him bringing with him two pistols, a .32 caliber and a .38 caliber, both of which were fully loaded.

Tucker told Powell, the latter asserted, that he would wait on the outside of the store while Powell went in with the .38 caliber pistol pretending to buy a bottle of wine.

On the night of the slaying, Powell confessed, he went into the store as planned and asked clerk that this was a holdup. Powell said the clerk dropped behind the counter telling him that he woud kill him (Powell). Powell said he became afraid when Tuck-

Powell admitted robbing homes for the wine and as the clerk the shooting of Mrs. Trow, house- in Independence, Mo., but he denied having anything to do with reached for the bottle he told the er hadn't come into the store as planned and that he leaned over the counter and fired a shot at the clerk and then turned to run. At this time, Powell alleged, Tucker entered the store and ordered Powell to shoot the man. On the way out of the store, Powell continued, he changed the pistol to his left hand and fired three shots around the edge of the counter.

Identify Powell

Powell said that while running away from the scene of the crime he met an auxiliary policeman whom he threatened to kill if he said anything about the shooting. It was this auxiliary policeman, William H. Thomas, 65, of 1709 Holmes St., who later identified Powell as one of the men he had seen running away from the liquor store.

keeper for Mr. and Mrs. Norman Schulz, 1331 N. River Blvd., Independence, Mo. He told police that he had heard that another of his companions had committed the shooting in Independence. Police are now searching for this youth. 12-21-45

Raymond Tucker, accused by Powell as being his assistant, will be transferred from the Independence jail to Kansas City, where William Thomas will be given an opportunity to identify him as Powells companion during the liquor store slaying.

According to Independence police, Tucker implicated Powell in the shooting of Mrs. Trow.

Police Make Sensational Arrest Of Pair Suspected In Cox Murder

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va.
10-13-45

NORFOLK — A combination of odd circumstances, woven out of his own apparent callousness last weekend served to bring about the arrest of Ernest Fagan, 30, and his alleged accomplice, Frank Peterson, 24, as the hunted killers of Horace Hough Cox, white automobile dealer.

Accused of the atrocious murder of Mr. Cox, who was slain while demonstrating a car at the intersection of Ludlow and Norwood streets on Tuesday, Sept. 4, Fagan and Peterson are alleged to have admitted their guilt, and each is reported to have re-enacted in the presence of detectives his part in the slaying.

EARLY TRIAL EXPECTED

Moving to bring to an early trial the two men, Commonwealth's Attorney J. Sidney Smith requested Judge Richard B. Spindle of Corporation Court No. 1, to empanel a special grand jury, which meeting Monday morning, heard presentments and indicted the defendants on first degree murder charges.

While the detective bureau had directed an intensive search for the slayers, the arrest of these suspects, against whom the police claim to have sufficient evidence to send to the electric chair, came about largely by chance, coupled with good detective instinct on the part of Patrolman Marshall T. Perry of the Second Precinct Police Station. 10-13-45

In breaking the case, that is obtaining what Capt. Fred Watson, chief of the detective bureau, asserts are full confessions on the part of the accused men, several officers participated.

FIRED AT WIFE

It was the alleged firing of two pistol bullets at his wife, Mrs. Leona Fagan, as she sat in the bedroom or their home, 2813 Corprew avenue, about 1:45 p. m. Wednesday which eventually led to the pair being charged with the Cox murder.

Mrs. Fagan put in a call for police, which was answered by Patrolmen T. J. Murden and G. V. Crosby. A short while later Fagan was arrested on a warrant sworn out by his wife charging him with felonious shooting with intent to kill.

PLACED UNDER ARREST

Fagan was in an automobile when the officers picked him up. As they approached his car he is said to have been seen to throw his pistol in a ditch, and hand a companion something for safe keeping.

The police claim that the pistol, a .45 calibre automatic, was retrieved from the ditch. On this point, however, Mrs. Fagan states that the weapon was taken by the police from a suitcase in her home.

On examination it proved to be government property and Fagan was being detained for questioning by the FBI.

At the Second Precinct Police Station, under questioning Mrs. Fagan told Patrolman Marshall T. Perry, the officer stated, that her husband always carried a gun, was a dangerous man and was wanted by the "law."

PROBE CONTINUED

This information was turned over to the detective division, with the result that Detective L. S. Petty was assigned to conduct further investigation.

When a man came to the police station to arrange bail for Fagan, it was learned that his name was Johnny Lee, and that he had been the one to whom Fagan had handed something at the time of his arrest. This object later proved to be a watch.

Detectives began a search for Lee, and on failing to find him at home, left word there for him to come to police headquarters. Lee, upon receiving the message, reported to the First Precinct Police Station, wearing the watch which he thought had been given him for safe keeping.

TRACING THE WATCH

From this point, work of the detectives centered upon efforts to disclose the owner of the watch. It had been learned that at the time Cox was killed he was wearing a wrist watch. In an effort to trace this timepiece, the detective division had circularized most of the large cities in the country.

With the watch in their possession detectives faced considerable difficulty in their efforts to connect it with Cox, because its serial numbers failed to correspond with the serial numbers on the one thought to have been worn by the victim when he was slain.

SCRATCH WORK

A scratch mark made by a repair man was recognized as being that of a local jeweler. Following up this lead, investigating officers called at the jewelry store, where it was definitely learned that the watch had been sold to Cox on Dec. 3, 1938.

Still, however, its serial number did not check with those on the watch police had been told he was wearing when killed. Consultation with Mrs. Cox, who had positively identified the watch as being her husband's disclosed that the one he was thought to have been wearing, the serial numbers of which had been circulated, was in her handbag, and that her husband had on another at the time of his death. 10-13-45

FAGAN QUESTIONED

Fagan was subjected to constant questioning, Capt. Watson said, but positvely refused to name his alleged accomplice. Instead, he is quoted as having asserted, "I believe every man ought to bear his own headaches." He is said to have told police that both he and his accomplice fired shots at Cox.

SEEK PETERSON

Peterson, who was then known to them only a "Frank." They had been told that he worked in a store. By a process of elimination it was found that it was supposed to be a grocery store in which the wanted man was employed.

About 4 a. m. Friday morning, detectives, following a tip, surrounded a house on Chapel street where they had been told Peterson lived. This tip proved to be false, however.

SEARCHING PARTY

The officers making up the searching party, Mark Woods, L. S. Petty, F. E. Decker, S. E. Slayer, W. T. Walker, Roxy Curles, led by Capt. Watson, then went to the house at 967 Washington avenue. At about 6 a. m. the premises were surrounded by uniformed patrolmen, including Officers W. H. Haynes, T. J. Murden and H. Pierce. 10-13-45

As the door was opened to their knock, the officers raced upstairs to a hall bedroom where Peterson was sleeping. He was yanked out of bed, and forced to dress while police surrounded him.

At the scene of his arrest, Peterson, the officers said, denied any connection with the Cox murder-robbery, but once carried to the station house, made a statement admitting his guilt.

Fagan was brought from the city jail. The two suspects were taken by a group of officers to the scene of the crime where it is reported they reenacted it completely.

STORY OF SLAYING

The story of the slaying, as alleged to have been related in the confessions, is that the accused pair had their victim to stop the car at Ludlow and Norwood streets and Fagan pressed a .45 automatic pistol against him and ordered him to throw up his hands.

Fearing however, that neighbors seeing Cox holding up his hands would realize that something was wrong, they ordered him to put his hands down. Fagan turned his gun over to Peterson. The victim, in lowering his hands reached for his own gun and fired a shot at Peterson but missed him, they said.

SCUFFLE INSUES

In the scuffle which ensued, the gun was at times in the hands of both. Both are alleged to have admitted firing shots at Cox but neither knew who had hit him in the chest. Peterson, police said explained that he fired the shot that grazed the temple.

After pulling the wounded man from the car, another shot was fired at him as he staggered down Norwood street. He fell in a rut in the roadway where a few minutes later police found him. Neighbors told investigating officers that two colored men were seen fleeing the scene. Mr. Cox was robbed of an amount of money later determined to have been about $1,390, police related.

DIRECTED QUESTIONING

Captain Watson, who directed the questioning of the pair, stated that the men told him they had arranged with the automobile dealer to have him pick them up at Chapel street and Washington avenue, on a pretense that they were to buy a car from him and offer to sell him one.

Fagan rode on the front seat with Cox while Peterson sat in the rear. After shooting the man with his own gun, Peterson climbed into the front seat and drove to the 400 block of Cumberland street where they abandoned the car which was found several hours later by the police.

Suspicion of Fagan was aroused, detectives said, because when he was first arrested he had a bullet wound in the left arm which appeared to be about 40 days old. The slug had passed completely through his arm.

Detective Petty stated that in an interview with Fagan's wife she said her husband refused to tell her how he came by his wound, and refused to have it treated in Norfolk, since he knew he was too "hot" to go to a local physician.

At police headquarters the clothing Fagan was supposed to have been wearing at the time is being held as material evidence. The accused man is said to have admitted that the garments had been soaked in blood but that he had washed it out. 10-13-45

Both men, police say, made trips out of the city, where they spent the remainder of the money procured in the robbery after having paid up their bills and redeemed pawned pledges.

Captain Watson had profuse praise for the work done by Detectives Petty, M. Woods, S. E. Salyer and F. E. Decker. He also thanked the many citizens, white and colored, who contributed materially to the solution of the case.

Fagan Sentenced To Die In Killing Of Cox

The Journal and Guide
Norfolk Va.

By C. L. WILLIAMS

NORFOLK — The tense crowd in the courtroom late Tuesday, Oct. 30 fixed its gaze upon the debonair Ernest Edward Fagan, 30, North Carolina native, as Judge Richard B. Spindle read the jury's verdict fixing his punishment at death for the murder of Horace H. Cox, white automobile dealer on last Sept. 4. 11-16-45

Fagan, previously unperturbed, became rigid as the court began to read the verdict. When the jurist reached the word "death" the condemned man stared blankly for a split second, gave a slight twist of the facial muscles, and snapped his eyes closed for less than a second.

Obviously stunned at the verdict, he nonetheless seemed immediately to regain the composure which had been his throughout the trial.

During his two-day trial he had listened intently while 35 witnesses took the stand and gave evidence calculated to seal his fate, while not a single witness other than his own father took the stand in his behalf.

FATHER'S TESTIMONY

The father, a farmer living in Marion county, near Williamston, N. C., testified that his 30-year-old son had been a good boy at home, whom he put to work plowing in the field after he had finished the sixth grade at 17 years of age.

The parent disclaimed any knowledge of the fact, as evidenced by prison records, that the son in 1933 was sentenced to serve 18 months on the road in North Carolina on a felony charge, and in 1935 was given a three-year penitentiary sentence following a plea of guilty of robbery from the person in Corporation Court in the City of Norfolk. 11-10-45

The trial opened Monday morning in Corporation Court No. 1, and was concluded when the jury returned its verdict at 4:30 Tuesday afternoon following 31 minutes of deliberation.

MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL

Winston A. Irwin, court-appointed defense attorney, who made a vailant effort to save his client from the extreme penalty, immediately motioned for a new trial on the grounds that the verdict was contrary to the law and the evidence. Judge Spindle set Nov. 7 as the date for hearing argument on this motion.

Fagan took the stand after a confession purportedly obtained from him by Capt. Fred E. Watson, in the presence of other police officers, had been admitted in evidence Tuesday morning. Capt. Watson read the lengthy statement, in which the defendant allegedly outlined in minute detail how he and Frank Peterson, an alleged accomplice, murdered and robbed Mr. Cox of $1,390.

Because the defense attorneys had previously reuqested a severance of trials, Peterson who was indicted jointly with Fagan, will not come to trial before Nov. 19.

Gordon E. Campbell, his court-appointed attorney will be assisted in the defense by John Spansfield of Aiken, S. C., a lawyer retained by Peterson's relatives.

FAGAN TESTIFIES

Facing the jury and speaking with an intelligence hardly expected of a sixth grade student, Fagan corroborated in all important details statemenets charged to him in the confession. He said that he and his accomplice had not intended to kill Cox, and would not have shot their victim had he not fired first. They intended to rob him, the accused said, but when Cox reached for his own gun, Fagan grabbed it.

"I didn't want Frank to get shot, so I hollered, look out Frank, just as I saw Mr. Cox's gun. I grabbed Mr. Cox's pistol. I was so excited I didn't know whether to run or shoot, so I shot after I was in that far," Fagan testified.

He told of how he and Peterson met Cox at the intersection of Washington avenue and Chapel street at 3:30 p. m. after contacting him by telephone on the pretext they wished to purchase a used car.

SAW COX'S GUN 11-10-45

He said that, fearing that the victim's upraised hands would attract attention and cause some one to call the "law," he ordered Cox to put his hands down. It was then, he testified, he glimpsed Cox pulling a gun from his pocket.

While Peterson shot twice with his automatic, Fagan shot Cox with the revolver he had wrested from the victim's hands. They dragged the mortally wounded man from the car, and drove down Rugby road, to Bank street, to Brambleton avenue, to Cumberland street, and stopped at 634 where Fagan said he sat on the stoop and waited for Peterson to take the car down into the 400 block and abandon it.

The defendant testifield that his accomplice after getting rid of the automobile, returned to the Cumberland street address, a rooming house of George Robert Lester and his wife, Mrs. Daisy Lester, where later the money was counted and divided betweed the two.

Relating further his actions, Fagan said he gave Mrs. Lester $150 to be given to her roomer, George Ruffin, in payment of a debt owed since June, and gave Mrs. Lester $10 for herself. At her house, he said, he removed his bloodstained clothes, went to Ruffin's room, and put on some of the latter's clothes, while Mrs. Lester washed his own.

Even without the confession, however, the prosecution had erected a virtually invulnerable case against the accused. To make certain his conviction the commonwealth used as witnesses against the defendant some of his former school mates, close associates and most trusted friends. Other witnesses helped to pile up the mass of evidence against him.

The accused had already heard Johnny Lee, a close friend, tell the jury that the watch taken from him by the police on the morning following the night of Fagan's arrest on another charge on complaint of his wife, had been given to him for safekeeping by Fagan. The ownership of the wrist watch had been traced to the slain man.

ADDS TO TESTIMONY

The defendant also heard Lee testify that on the night following the killing, at the Cumberland street house, Fagan told him that he and Peterson had killed and robbed Cox by having him to demonstrate an automobile.

Fagan had listened to George Ruffin, his friend for years and a roomer at the Cumberland street residence, take the stand and declare that the defendant told him that he and Peterson slew Cox because they "had to have some money."

At the same time Ruffin told the court that on the night following the slaying, Fagan paid him $100, as part payment on a $159 debt.

Ruffin further testified that Fagan gave him a pistol in payment for one he had loaned the accused. The ownership of this bluesteel .38 calibre revolver had been traced to Cox, and through the testimony of an FBI ballistic expert, it proved to be the same gun with which the victim was killed.

MRS. LESTER TESTIFIES

Mrs. Daisy Lester, the sister of Johnny Lee, and the housewife with whom Ruffin lodged, who testified that she attended school with Fagan some 12 years ago in Williamston, N. C., told the jury that when she arrived home after quitting work on the day Cox was slain, she found Peterson and Fagan sitting in her kitchen counting out money. She admitted that she was given $100 by Fagan to give to Ruffin and $10 for herself. She also stated that she washed the blood stains out of Fagan's trousers and shirt. The bleached garments were placed in evidence. Her husband, George Lester, corroborated her testimony.

CONFESSES ALL

All of the testimony given by these witnesses, friends of the convicted man, was freely admitted by him in his own testimony.

Mrs. Addie Rainey and Mrs. Evelyn Simmons of 2621 Ludlow street, told of hearing several pistol shots while in the kitchen of their home. They testified to seeing two colored men and a white man beside a parked automobile at the intersection of Ludlow and Norwood streets. Both women stated that on seeing the colored men, whom they were unable to identify, drive off in the car, they jotted down the license number. Mrs. Rainey hastened next door to a telephone and notified police.

COX EMPLOYEE 11-10-45

Wilbert Dildy, a colored employee of the Cox Motor Company identified Fagan as the man seen conversing with Mr. Cox at the latter's place of business on the day he was slain.

COUNSEL'S SUMMATION

At the conclusion of the presentation of testimony, Mr. Irwin, in his summation to the jury, made a vigorous plea for clemency for his client. Depicting Fagan as having been an underplivileged child, reared amidst poverty and ignorance in a rural community, the court-appointed defense attorney, impassionately pleaded with the jurors to give the defendant "a drop of human kindness from your cup."

Mr. Irwin, at the outset of his address, conceding that the commonwealth had proved its case, said that he would not ask that his client be not found guilty of murder in the first degree, but emphasized that life imprisonment is, in the discretion of the jury, an alternate penalty for first degree murder. He implored the jury to return a verdict which, as he termed it, would serve the ends of justice, yet spare the life of the accused.

HTE PROSECUTION

Dispassionately, both the commonwealth's attorney and his assistant, reminded the jurors of the depravity of the slaying and robbery.

They called it one of the most atrocious crimes committed in this city in recent years, and said that as a protection to the community, they should, in keeping with their oaths render a verdict in conformity with the gravity of the offense, and that this verdict should carry nothing less than the extreme penalty.

43e-1945

cials indicated they would seek burglary indictments against Blalock in case the DeKalb jury gave him a life sentence.

Attorney J. O. Ewing, who with James R. Venable, defended Blalock, announced last night he will file a motion for a new trial this morning.

Blalock's case went to the jury late Wednesday afternoon, and the jurors deliberated his fate for more than 50 hours. The verdict was made public at 5:55 p. m. yesterday. 3-17-45

Rumors in the Decatur courthouse were that the jury reached a verdict as to Blalock's guilt, but split on the penalty. Rumors had it that from the beginning three members of the jury stood out for a life sentence.

Mendez appeals sentence

Los Angeles Tribune 2-19-45 Col.

Antonio Santiago Mendez, who admits to "a strain of Negro blood while claiming Spanish descent," convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to the gas chamber by Judge Newcomb Condee, will file an appeal to the State Supreme Court through his new attorney, Walter L. Gordon Jr. He was represented during the trial by a public defender.

Mendez was convicted of killing Pearl Maude Farrington, white, July 11, in a park, then taking her body to El Segundo and Central ave. where it was found in a semi-nude condition the following morning by a truck driver.

Mendez pleaded not guilty but on the day of the trial changed his plea to guilty and testimony was heard to determine the degree of guilt. After three days of testimony, taken up mostly by the story of the defendant, Judge Condee ruled that the crime was first degree murder and sentenced Mendez to death. The penalty carries with it an automatic appeal and the brief will be filed before Mar. 8 in the State Supreme Court by Mr. Gordon who is seeking to set aside the death penalty.

Mendez allegedly killed the woman after tiring of her affections. Former department store elevator operator, he also worked for three months as an elevator operator in the Hall of Justice where he was tried.

Whites by Negroes

Cause For Rejoicing

Atlanta World Ga.

Down at Covington, Georgia last week, 19-year-old Negro, L. C. Johnson, was sentenced to the electric chair in the slaying of Mrs. James Berry of Newton County. The jury deliberated only five minutes, according to accounts, before returning a verdict of guilty. making the death penalty mandatory. Grim-faced neighbors packed the courtroom long before the trial began and state troopers and deputy sheriffs took up positions over the room to prevent any possible demonstrations. Five automobiles laden with troopers accompanied the Negro to Covington from an Atlanta jail. 2-23-45

In addition, state patrol scout cars roamed the highways leading into Covington early on the day of the trial, checking by two-way radio with headquarters in Atlanta the license number of any suspicious looking automobile. The trial ended one of the swiftest murder investigations on record, said the report, and the 19 year-old Johnson was immediately returned to Atlanta for safe-keeping, pending his transfer to the death cell at Tattnall prison. He was whisked away under heavy guard.

We reprint this account of the trial and conviction because of the extreme importance and emphasis placed upon the fact that the Negro was at least given a trial rather than lynched. That is still something to rejoice over in many parts of rural Georgia and the South. Let us contrast this with the now celebrated case of Mrs. Recy Taylor, Negro woman of Alabama who alleges she was criminally attacked by a group of white boys several months ago. Mrs. Taylor has complained of this attack to the deaf ears of local authorities. The case went before a Grand Jury late last Fall, it was reported, but there was no indictment. Governor Sparks became concerned and promised an investigation. That was done and the Attorney-General expressed a belief that he had enough evidence to warrant its presentation to a Grand Jury. We learn for a second time that there has been no indictment. Like the Scottsboro case, the nation is watching with keen interest the development in this case, especially in view of the fact that one of the men is alleged to have confessed to the attack. 2-23-45

The moral here then, is that if a Negro charged with committing a crime can be assured of a trial without being lynched in the rural areas, it is still cause for rejoicing. On the other hand, the problem of bringing a white person to court for trial for wrongs committed against a Negro is a moral victory.

Ariz. Policeman Convicted of Death of White Officer

AFRO-AMERICAN Md. Baltimore

PHOENIX, Ariz. (Special) — Despite a plea of self-defense, Joe Davis, 27, police patrolman, was convicted recently by a Superior Court jury of manslaughter in the police station slaying of Leonce T. (Frenchy) Navarro, 51, a white veteran detective.

The State had asked the death penalty, and the manslaughter verdict of the 12-man, all-white jury was considered by many a moral victory for Davis.

However, his attorney, Herman Lewkowitz, one of Arizona's best criminal lawyers, said motions for a new trial will be filed.

Sentenced on February 19

Judge Dudley W. Windes, presiding at the three-day retrial, set February 19, for passing sentence, which may be from one to ten years in the State prison. However, the court may at its discretion grant probation.

Navarro was shot in the Phoenix police station a short time after he had been acquitted on a first degree murder charge in the street shooting of David (Star) Johnson, a patrolman.

At Navarro's first trial, the jury was unable to reach a verdict. The State's chief witness at both trials, Davis said he saw the shooting and contended Navarro shot Johnson down in cold blood. 2-17-45

Denies Statement

Davis, also given two trials, denied the testimony of State's witnesses that he had declared he should have shot Navarro the day the latter killed Johnson "because his people would not forgive him."

In relating details of the shooting, Davis testified he was standing before the desk sergeant's cage reading the "blue book," daily records, when he saw Navarro coming through the swinging doors in the corridor.

Continuing, he said, that after two or three short steps, the detective came to a dead halt and his right hand started up slowly, then quickly to his shoulder holster, which he had worn for 18 years. 2-17-45

Feared for Life

"I thought my life was in imminent peril," Davis added. "I had to act or he would get me. The very moment I saw his hand going for his gun I went for mine and shot."

As in the first trial, Davis testified he was threatened by Navarro outside the court room during the latter's first trial. The defendant said that Navarro looked at him and declared, "I'l get you."

Although he reported the incident to the county attorney, nothing was done about it, Davis stated.

Jailed Since October

While the jury was being selected, Davis sat in the corridor playing with his three children. He had been held in the county jail in default of a $10,000 bond since his preliminary hearing in October. 2-17-45

James L. Davis, father of the patrolman, received contributions to help defend his son from branches of the NAACP at Winslow and San Diego and from the First Colored Baptist Church here.

Negro Doomed To Die In Hale Slaying Case

Montgomery Advertiser

GREENSBORO, ALA, May 22 —(AP)—A Hale County jury of farmers and townsmen tonight convicted Richard Brown, 19-year-old negro, of murder in the slaying of a plantation manager and fixed punishment at death in the electric chair.

The negro, accused of killing Jack T. Walton, 63, told the court he had nothing to say regarding the verdict, and sentence was passed immediately by Circuit Judge W. E. Callen. The jurors deliberated the case for 45 minutes. 5-23-45

Another negro, 17-year-old Ernest Johnson, is co-defendant and is scheduled to stand trial tomorrow.

Sheriff B. W. Coleman and O. C. Hitt, special state investigator, were the principal state witnesses. Both testified Brown told them he and Johnson planned the slaying the day before its execution on Feb. 8.

Both officers quoted Brown as saying he fired the shots which killed the farm manager.

Two Negroes On Trial For Walton Slaying

Birmingham News 5-22-45

GREENSBORO, Ala., May 22 — (AP)—Two young Negroes, Richard Brown, 19, and Ernest Johnson, 17, stood trial here today for the slaying of Jack T. Walton, 63-year-old plantation overseer and cattle raiser. 5-22-45

A jury was empaneled yesterday, and the taking of testimony was scheduled today.

The Negroes are accused of killing Walton from ambush last Feb. 8. His body was recovered from the Warrior River almost a month later.

Two Negro Youths Sentenced To Die

Birmingham News
5-24-45

GREENSBORO, Ala., May 24—(AP)—Two young Negroes, Richard Brown, 19, and Ernest Johnson, 17, face death in the electric chair June 29 for the slaying of Jack T. Walton, 63, operator of a 1,000-acre Black Belt plantation.

Johnson was convicted of the killing late yesterday in the same courtroom in which the other defendant was found guilty on the day before.

The Johnson jury deliberated only about 20 minutes before returning with a guilty verdict and ordering the death penalty imposed.

Circuit Judge W. E. Callen passed sentence on the pair and set the execution date. 5-24-45

The state's primary witness against Johnson was Sheriff W. E. Coleman, who advised the jury that the defendant had made a confession in the case.

The sheriff quoted Johnson as saying he "participated" in the killing and that he and Brown divided "the $64 in money they took from Walton's body."

Walton was killed last Feb. 8, and his body, containing pistol and shotgun wounds, was recovered a month later from the Warrior River.

On the stand in his own defense, Johnson admitted being implicated in the slaying, but told the jury he was acting under "threats" from the other Negro. 5-24-45

He said he and Brown plotted the killing on Feb. 7, but that he tried to "back out" at the last moment. Brown "made me go through with it," he added.

Negro Soldier Must Die For Slaying Of Woman

Birmingham News
6-6-45

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., June 6—(AP)—Death before a firing squad was the sentence imposed last night upon Corp. Charles Wells, Negro, of Atlanta, Ga., after he was found guilty at his court-martial trial for the criminal attack and murder of Mrs. Irene C. Clark, 52, San Bernardino housewife, last April 6.

Wells was stationed at Victorville Army Airfield. Testimony showed he has a wife and two children in Atlanta.

The sentence is subject to review by an Army board of review at nearby Santa Ana Air Base.

Carolinian Executed by Gas; Denies Assault

AFRO-AMERICAN
6-23-45

RALEIGH, N.C. — Admitting other details of the crime, but denying that he assaulted her, Lacy A. McDaniel was executed here in the State's gas chamber on June 8, for assaulting and killing an unnamed white woman on July 17, 1944.

Slaying Of Banker Confessed By Negro

Montgomery Advertiser
1-19-45

ATLANTA, Jan. 18.—(AP)—DeKalb County Police Chief Leo Nahlik announced this afternoon that Horace Blalock, negro, had confessed slaying Henry C. Heinz, Atlanta banker and former president of Kiwanis International, the night of Sept. 28, 1943.

Nahlik said the confession was contained in a full statement made by Blalock in his own handwriting and in the presence of the negro's wife and three children.

Suspect Killed In Fatal Attack

Atlanta World
6-12-45

COLQUITTA, GA.—(SNS)—Mrs. Mae Gorman, 50, year-old white woman, was clubbed to death near this city Saturday night and a Negro suspect was shot to death by officers taking him to jail the next morning, Sheriff W. S. Tabb reported Monday.

Sheriff Tabb said he and his deputy, Buck Tabb, shot the Negro, Charlie Lee Price, 20, to death when he fought his way out of the place where Mrs. Gorman was slain.

The womans body, clad in a nightgown, was found in her front yard Saturday night by a seven-year old neighbor boy, Roy Cook, her cousin, who had been sent to her home to borrow some coffee. The boy ran home to tell his parents.

Mrs. Gorman, clubbed about the head, had been attacked by hogs after she was slain. Her face and head were mutilated. Her home is at Cooktown, about 10 miles south of this city.

Man Admits Fatal Beating Of Woman

Bham. June 12 Herndon
5-3-45
Courier-Journal

Officials Announce Full Confession

Hopkinsville, Ky., May 2 (AP)—Christian County Deputy Sheriff Howard Major and County Attorney W. E. Rogers announced today that Charley Pool, Negro, had made a full admission that he beat and killed Mrs. Virginia Gray Harris at her home near here last Thursday.

Pool, 40, was taken to the Eddyville State Penitentiary for safekeeping last week. He was quoted then as having told Mrs. Harris' husband, Boyd Harris, that he found her unconscious as he passed the Harris farm.

Mrs. Harris, who died en route to a hospital, was beaten on the head by a blunt instrument, Major said.

The deputy sheriff and County attorney said today that Pool had admitted full responsibility for the slaying and waived his examining trial. The prisoner was retained at Eddyville for safekeeping. 5-3-45

Sam Hopson, also arrested for questioning in connection with the slaying, was released.

Dad of Boys Who Escaped Mob Says "Bad Luck Follows Me"

AFRO-American Balt, Md.
1-27-45

Maryland Farmer, Father of 12, Doesn't Believe 2 Teen-Age Sons Slew White Man

By RUTH JENKINS
(Editor Baltimore AFRO)

CHANCE, Md.—Lamenting his continuous ill fortune, Welton Jones, Sr., father of the two teen-age brothers accused of killing a white oyster packer, declared with tears in his eyes, Tuesday, "It seems that bad luck keeps following me." 1-27-45

Standing among the ruins of his four-room cabin from which the family had fled because of threats from incensed white neighbors, Mr. Jones said he believed that his sons were innocent of the four crimes charged against them. There are twelve children in the family, including the two accused youths, but Mr. Jones was so upset about the cases that he could not think of the children's ages nor even of the baby's first name.

Two Youths, 18 and 15

The boys, whisked out of town Friday night to escape a mob which joined State police in the attempt to track them down, are Welton, Jr., 18, and Holbrook Jones, 15, who are being held without bail in the Harford County jail at Bel Air, Md.

They are charged with the rifle murder of Raynor Graham, the oyster packer; the shooting of Kenneth Willing, 17; and attempted attacks on Misses Peggy Price, 16, and Ada White, 48, all white.

Mr. Jones was located with difficulty Tuesday afternoon because he, his wife and ten children, had sought the safety of neighbor's homes after hearing threats that they "had better not be caught home after the Graham funeral" on Monday. 1-27-45

Comes Out to Feed Pigs

The other members of the family remained in hiding, but Mr. Jones said he returned to the house Tuesday morning to feed his four pigs. He had set free his chickens for fear they would be stolen.

When he again returned in the afternoon with AFRO reporters, the front door was found open, tables, chairs and the baby's crib were broken, a pot of food was on the floor and clothes were strewn across the rooms.

In defense of his sons, Mr. Jones, who worked as a farmer and oyster dredger on a boat rented from the dead man, declared that the family had never owned a rifle such as the one believed to have killed Mr. Graham.

Murder Weapon Still Missing

He admitted having had a shotgun, but said it had not been used for fifteen years. Police report that the eldest son said he threw the rifle into the water after the shooting, but it has not yet been located.

Harry Dashiell, State's attorney for Somerset County who will prosecute the case against the Jones brothers, announced previously that police had found two guns, but were not certain that either was used in either of the shootings. 1-27-45

Mr. Jones said that on the night of the alleged crimes, his sons helped him feed the farm animals, then went out while he was asleep. He was awakened by police, he said, who were looking for the brothers, accused then only of shooting the Willing boy and molesting the two women.

The brothers came in shortly afterwards, their father said, when [illegible] State police arrived and announced that they were also being arrested for the murder of Graham.

Father Defends Sons

"They'd have no reason to hurt Mr. Graham," Mr. Jones said. "We've all worked for him for years. If ever I needed a dollar, he'd let me have it. If they ever needed money, he would let them have it. He trusted me with his boat; you know he trusted me with his money and everything else." 1-27-45

Police reported that $150 was missing from the dead man's body when he was found and that when the boys were searched, a "huge sum" of money was found in their possession, as well as a gas ration book bearing Mr. Graham's name.

Mr. Jones said that he saw no money taken from the boys when they were searched at home, and explained that the boys had access to the stamps because he, the father, always had gas books in Graham's name for use on the boat. He exhibited two of these booklets to prove his point.

Youths Deny Charges

As to the other charges against the boys, Mr. Jones said he had had no opportunity to talk with them before they were arrested. He said they told him when questioned that they had done nothing. He pointed out here that they had never before been involved in any trouble.

Because of lack of funds, he has been unable to visit his sons or to hire an attorney for them, he said.

Breaking into tears as he discussed the situation, Mr. Jones lamented "I need the boys because they helped me with my work. I'm so upset I don't know what to do. I can't take care of my family; I can't do anything. Seems like bad luck just keeps following me." 1-27-45

He explained that five years ago one son, Hoover, drowned. Then their home, a two-room shack, burned down with all furnishings, because, as he said, so upset to get it straight." he said, he was "too

He explained that five Virginia, named after her mother, years ago one son, Hoover, and the 3-year-old baby, nickdrowned. Then their home, Two others he could not name

43e-1945

Driver Held to Grand Jury In Death of Cadet Nurse

Courier Journal, Louisville, Ky
2-9-45

Matthew Taylor, 38, Negro, 1912 Magazine, whose automobile killed a 19-year-old cadet nurse at 12th and Broadway January 7, was held to the grand jury under $2,500 bond in Police Court yesterday on a manslaughter charge.

He also was fined $50 for drunken driving after Patrolman Charles Dalrymple testified Taylor was in a drunken condition after his automobile ran through a red light at the intersection and carried the girl's body for several yards, crushing it against the side of the bus. 2-9-45

A coroner's jury ruled earlier that the nurse, Miss Anna Louise Knopp, 2230 Garland, a cadet nurse at SS. Mary and Elizabeth Hospital, died as a result of reckless driving by Taylor while he was in a drunken condition.

Seven cadet nurses at the hospital, friends of the girl, stood near the judge's bench to listen to the testimony.

Brother Of Slain Man Saves Life Of Negro

Birmingham News
2-9-45

ATLANTA—(AP)—Shadow of the electric chair, hanging for five years over Willie Bryant, 25-year-old Negro, lifted Friday through intervention of Reginald Trice, brother of the man the Negro was convicted of killing.

Bryant was to have died at Tattnall Prison Friday.

Thursday, Trice telephoned Chairman Edward Everett of the State Board of Paroles and Pardons and said:

"There is a little doubt in the case, and I believe I am doing my Christian duty in asking that his life be spared."

The Negro's sentence was commuted to life imprisonment and brought to a close a 60-month court fight that followed his first conviction for the slaying of Zach Trice, Macon oil company dealer, who was shot to death in January, 1939.

Bryant was twice convicted and sentenced to the electric chair. The Supreme Court reversed the first conviction, upheld the second.

Governor Is Condemned In Folkes Case

Atlanta World
2-4-45

Many Convinced That Wrong Man Was Executed

PORTLAND, Oregon — (ANP) — Many citizens here are convinced that the wrong man was executed in the death of Mrs. Martha Virginia Jones, young "Lower 18" bride and are reported to be holding Governor Earl Snell responsible for Folkes' death in the lethal gas chamber.

Public sentiment against Governor Snell is reported to have steadily risen since Folkes was executed, especially when it was learned that he ignored six points, based upon facts, brought to his attention by a local lawyer.

1. The governor knew that "the accused was never identified as the person who fled from the scene of the crime." 2-1-45

2. The governor was aware that "the instrument alleged to have been used was never found, identified, and offered in evidence in this case."

NO FINGER PRINTS

3. The governor realized that "no finger prints were found that would tend to indicate that the accused committed the crime."

4. The governor knew that "the dark overcoat alleged to have been worn by the accused was not identified and offered in evidence."

5. The governor was aware that "the trousers alleged to have been worn by the accused at the time of the crime was not identified," but offered in evidence. 2-1-45

6. The governor realized that "there were no blood stains found upon the accused or his clothing that would tend to connect him with the crime."

Opinions of Governor Snell's attitude on the Folkes case is said to range all the way from "stupid weakness" to latent Negrophobia.

Second Trial For Negro Hinges On Court Ruling

Birmingham News
2-13-45

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — If the State Supreme Court upholds a death sentence imposed on Worley James, 39, Negro, convicted of having carnal knowledge of a 10-year-old Negro girl, James will not be tried for the slaying of Mrs. Lynn C. Drew, Solicitor Temple Seibels said Monday. 2-13-45

An indictment charging the Negro with attacking a woman of his own race also has been postponed, awaiting action of the Supreme Court, the solicitor said.

Newton Jury Ordered To Probe Berry Slaying

Atlanta Constitution
2-7-45

By KEELER McCARTNEY,

COVINGTON, Ga., Feb. 6.—The Newton county grand jury has been ordered to meet here Monday and consider evidence obtained by law enforcement officers investigating the slaying of Mrs. Ezna Piper Berry, 63, who was killed early Sunday morning in her home four miles from town.

Judge James C. Davis and Solicitor General Roy C. Leathers, of the Stone Mountain circuit, were here today, and, following an investigation by the solicitor Judge Davis ordered the grand jury to assemble, then directed the sheriff to summon petit jurors for a special session of court Wednesday.

L. C. Johnson, 19-year-old farm Negro, living near the Berry home, is being held in the Fulton county tower on a charge of murder. Capt. W. E. Spence of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, announced Johnson had confessed slaying Mrs. Berry with a "battling stick" a few moments after Mrs. Berry's husband left home to walk to a service station and purchase a morning paper. 2-7-45

At a coroner's inquest held yesterday, Dr. J. B. Mitchell, Covington physician, said he had found positive evidence Mrs. Berry was criminally assaulted by her slayer.

The blood-stained hickory "battling stick" was found in a clump of bushes about a quarter of mile from the berry residence.

Negro's White Victim Succumbs At Hospital

Montgomery Advertiser
2-21-45

Herbert Athey, Ramer farmer, who was attacked by a negro, Lester Wingard, in the town's business section last Saturday afternoon, died shortly before midnight last night at St. Margaret's Hospital. 3-21-45

Mr. Athey, in St. Margaret's since the attack, never did regain consciousness. He suffered head injuries when the negro ran upon him from behind and struck him with a piece of one by four.

The incident followed an alleged fracas in which Wingard is said to have been reprimanded by a deputy sheriff after creating a disturbance.

Negro Murderer To Die March 6

The Memphis Commercial Appeal
2-7-45

From The Commercial Appeal Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 6.—Tony Brown, Mississippi County negro, who killed a white man with an iron pipe in December, 1943, will die in the state's electric chair March 6 for the crime, Governor Laney announced Tuesday.

The victim was A. M. Lynch, 62-year-old employe of the Luxora Gin Company. He was attacked by Brown the night of Dec. 4, 1943. During the trial the negro told officers he had lost all his money in a dice game and intended to rob Mr. Lynch. 2-7-45

Brown, convicted of first degree murder by the Mississippi Circuit Court and sentenced to death in the electric chair, appealed his case to the Supreme Court. The high tribunal affirmed the lower court.

Brown's execution date was the first set by the Governor since he assumed office.

Chased Hunted Man In Jungle Nearly A Year

N.Y. Amsterdam News
4-7-45

Fantastic, Yet True Story Of A Killing, Two Escapes And Death of GI From D. C.

By FRANK N. BOLDEN
(NNPA War Correspondent)

NEW DELHI, India (Delayed)—Appearing gaunt and emotionless, his body wracked by pain from malnutrition, malaria, dysentery and gunshot wounds in his right ankle, left foot, right hip and nose, Pvt. Herman Perry, Washington, D.C., an enlistee in the Army and member of a colored Aviation Engineer Battalion in Burma, and escaped murderer of Lt. Harold A. Cady, white of Woodhull, N. Y., walked bravely upon the scaffold at 7:30 a. m., March 14 at Ledo in Assam, Burma, and was hanged.

The Anti-Climax

The anti-climax of the long chase, which began March 5, 1944, with the shooting of Lt. Cady by Perry at Tagap, Burma, followed by a series of exciting and almost fantastic events in which the cunning Perry, like a hunted, wounded and crazed beast, consistently eluded his pursuers in the perilous depths of the Burma jungle, (escaping twice after capture and once from the clutches of a well planned ambush), occurred at 8:30 p. m., March 9, 1945, west of Nsmrup, Assam, when the fugitive was captured for the last time.

Acting upon tips furnished by troops and civilian police, Provost Marshal Major Earl O. Cullum and MP Pvt. George E. Crosby, both white, forded a river in their bare feet and approached a shack located in the Naga hills, where Perry was supposed to be sleeping. Crosby covered the shack, and Cullum, disregarding for the time being three persons dressed in native clothing outside looking on, entered. Finding no one inside, Cullum came out, and looking at the three in native dress immediately recognized the sick and wounded Perry and arrested him. Five days later Perry paid the supreme penalty. 4-7-45

Was Hunted, Feared

The story of the most hunted man in the India-Burma theatre, the man with a 1,000 rupee price upon his head and labeled as a "Fast Talker — Well Educated — Dangerous — Take no Chances with this Man!" begins on the evening of March 4, 1944, when Lt. Gene Carapico, white, who was Perry's company commander, learned that Perry had failed to report for work that same morning. He ordered that Perry appear before him in the orderly room the following morning. The next day Perry failed to appear at the appointed time and Lt. Carapico sent the First Sergeant for him. When Perry did appear, the CO asked him why he had not reported for work the day before and also at reveille that day as ordered. Perry answered with, "Work? Reveille? What's that?" The officer immediately ordered him to turn in his rifle and his effects because he was sending him to the guardhouse. "You mean you're going to send me to the guardhouse for that?" queried Perry. The answer was a command given by Lt. Carapico to a Staff Sergeant to execute the order on Perry.

On the way to turn in his rifle Perry, who had recently been released from the guardhouse and was still bitter about having been kept there, exclaimed, "I'll die and go to hell before I go to the guardhouse and I'm going to keep my rifle!" He continued walking on out towards the road. Here he commandeered a truck and told the driver to take him down the road as he was going to see Col. Hiatt, whom he said had instructed him to get in touch with him whenever he was in trouble. 4-7-45

Don't Come Up on Me

A quarter of a mile down the road, Lt. Cady, riding in a jeep, caught up with the truck and ordered it to halt, and for Perry to get out and get in the jeep with him, as he was taking him back. Perry got out of the truck but refused to accompany Lt. Cady. The unarmed Cady advanced upon the GI holding his rifle, exclaiming as he did so, "I'll put you in this jeep with my fists!"

"Don't come up on me," warned Perry, at the same time throwing the safety off of his rifle. As Lt. Cady advanced to within a few feet of him, Perry fired twice, and both bullets plowed into the officer's body. One of the bullets damaged blood vessels around his heart and pierced his spinal column. Perry fled into the jungle, and Lt. Cady was carried to a hospital, where he died soon after admittance.

Perry's flight carried him deep into the wooded jungle hills, where he found refuge among some of the Naga tribesmen in the remote village of Tgum-Ga. At first, the natives were unfriendly. Their attitude soon changed when Perry began to cure malaria among the natives with quinine and atabrine. These natives, impressed with Perry's fashion for heavy drugs had been stolen from him by the Chindit tribes and natives when he had been ill with opium. Perry himself was a user of dope and the "Gonja," which the learned their language and customs also. He joined them and the fever soon after he had fled used brought a from the scene of the crime Perry brought a good price on the market. In the daytime, Perry hunted natives made and used for a while for the fugitive. Finally, officials of the Criminal Investigation Division closed in on their quarry and trapped him

Self-Defense

k a sojourn up upon their quarry and trapped him

Said it Was Self-Defense

in his lair. While trying to escape, Perry was shot twice through the chest and was taken to the hospital at Shingbwiyang and was put into a ward.

Here in a confession, which later at the court-martial he denied having made, agreed to or written, he admitted to the murder and said that it was in self-defense. He had planned to give himself up, and returned towards camp the same day of the crime. Nearing camp, he became fearful of the consequences and decided not to give himself up. He said that he slept the first night (day of the crime) within a few feet of the officers' quarters near the camp. The following morning he took to the jungle hills again. During the first month "his pals helped him, but later they turned yellow and quit." He also stated that he had not been drinking the day before the crime, but that he had been smoking marijuana and opium on the Fourth. He concluded by saying that he never intended to return to the Army or the United States, but meant to remain in the jungle with his wife, whom he loved, for the rest of his life.

Found "Guilty"

Perry was tried on September 4, 1944, and found guilty of murder and desertion and sentenced to hang.

During a heavy fog some time between the night of the 15th and the morning of the 16th of December, Perry escaped again (having done so once before in July, but was apprehended before getting very far) this time by cutting through the wire surrounding the stockade, using a blanket to muffle the sound of the cutting.

Early in February of this year, Major Cullum received a hot tip that Perry was somewhere in the Nakum Junction area between Ledo and Chabua. Two colored sergeants visiting a native bootlegger in a Nakum hut had found Perry there. At the point of a revolver he had relieved them of 95 rupees and ordered them to return the following night with a truck loaded with shelter halves, food, ammunition, Gurgha knife and uniform. 4-7-45

The sergeants reported the incident to the authorities and an ambush was prepared. The following night the GIs delivered the truck and equipment as Perry had requested, while the police watched from vantage points. Two miles down the road Perry had to stop the truck for the regular MP road block. He got out to walk around the block and stepped directly into the ambush. Although wounded by some of the 29 shots which were fired at him in the dark, Perry escaped into the jungle once more.

The End of the Rope

The chase now became more persistent and the net was drawn tighter around the helpless fugitive, who darted frantically hither and yon through the jungle like a harassed beast with the hounds yelping at its heels. Perry was seen in a number of places. A civilian constable fired on him, an MP sentry inflicted a nose wound, and he lost a pistol and escaped in full view of some MP's after he ran out of the jungle and unsuccessfully tried to board a moving truck on the road. Patrols constantly remained on his trail, chasing him through the jungle and across the plantations, occasionally getting a shot at him here and there. At all times the crafty Perry managed to get away. 4-7-45

Finally, at 5:30 p. m., March 9, information was brought in by a native spotter about another shack in the Naga hills. Officials followed the lead and captured the half-starved, dope-tortured, malarial and dysentery ridden Perry, who had been shot not long before in the ankle, foot, hip and nose.

The career of the clever "Burma

Farm Overseer's Body Recovered From River, Ala. Young Negroes Held

Birmingham News 3-7-45

GREENSBORO, Ala.—(AP)—Two teen-age Negroes are held in an undisclosed jail Wednesday, accused of slaying Jack Walton, 63-year-old plantation overseer, and sinking his body in the Warrior River.

Hale County Sheriff Wynne Coleman said Walton's body, weighted with pieces of iron, was recovered from the river Wednesday, and added that the two Negroes had made confessions.

He identified the pair as Richard Brown, 19, yard man on the Walton place, and Earnest Johnson, 17, resident of the same rural section.

Walton, cattleman and operator of a 1,000-acre Alabama Black Belt plantation 14 miles west of here, was shot from ambush Feb. 8, the sheriff said, adding that the man's disappearance was not known here until March 3.

On that day, relatives of Walton in Oklahoma notiifed local authorities that they were unable to communicate with him. 3-7-45

Coleman said Walton was not a recluse, although he lived alone in a century-old cottage in a rural section and sometimes went for weeks without putting in an appearance here or in Sawyerville, nearest community to his home.

* * *

COLEMAN ASSIGNED robbery as motive for the slaying, and quoted the Negroes as saying they robbed Walton's pockets of $64, after he had been killed.

Brown's confession, said the accused youths, was being held in connection with the investigation of the case. Brown was arrested Sunday and Johnson on Monday.

Walton operated the plantation for his brother-in-law, Dr. E. D. Dunlap, of Lawton, Okla. His survivors include his 91-year-old mother, Mrs. J. J. Walton, of Greensboro.

Negro Soldier Held In Miss. In Killing Of White Planter

Philadelphia Tribune

CLARKSDALE, Miss.—(ANP)—Cpl. Lee Arthur Casey, 25, is being held in an unnamed Mississippi jail following his arrest in Helena, Ark., last week for the slaying of Hal Parchman, 65-year-old white planter, here, according to Sheriff W. D. Rasberry of Coahoma county. 1-6-45

Mrs. Casey and her sister worked on Parchman's plantation and he was bringing them home from town when the slaying occurred, reports say. When Parchman's car stuck in the mud, the two women went for help. When they returned, Cpl. Casey was there to meet them.

While Sheriff Rasberry did not give a motive for the slaying, it is said that Casey began beating his wife for being in the white man's car. Mrs. Casey fled and when Parchman interfered, Casey attacked him.

Jealousy is said to have been the motive for Cpl. Casey's act, since he is reported to have believed that Parchman sought to be intimate with the women. The soldier was stationed at an army base in Maryland and was home on leave when the killing occurred.

Found Guilty in Duck Island Case

Afro-American

Lawyers to Ask Court to Throw Out Verdict

JURY ASKS LIFE

1-6-45

Five Hours Required to Reach Decision

TRENTON, N.J.—Defense counsel for Pvt. Clarence Hill, against whom a verdict of first-degree murder was returned on Friday night, announced this week that a motion to arrest judgment is scheduled to be filed Friday with Common Pleas Judge Frank S. Katzenbach.

Robert Queen, one of the defense lawyers, said the grounds for the motion could not be revealed but he was optimistic over the outcome.

Shocked at Verdict

He added that never in his legal career had he been more shocked than with the guilty verdict with recommendation of life imprisonment at hard labor returned by the jury of five men and seven women in the "Duck Island" murder case.

Immediately after the decision was announced by J. Russel Brown of Lawrenceville, jury foreman, County Prosecutor Walter D. Cougle moved for sentencing of the defendant.

The motion was denied after the defense stated it wished to file one for arrest of judgment.

The jury deliberated five hours (4:40 to 9:40 p.m.) before returning the decision which apparently took everyone in the courtroom by surprise.

Private Hill, accused of killing Mary Myatovich and Vincenzo Tonzillo, both of Trenton, the night of November 8, 1938, remained silent. But it was a full minute before he could wipe the expression of astonishment from his face.

Supporters Dazed

The soldier's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Hill, simply stared into space as if unable to grasp the full meaning of the verdict.

Behind and around them were relatives and friends, like so many petrified objects.

Highlights of the final day of the trial were summation speeches by Frank H. Wimberley and Prosecutor Cougle.

Mr. Wimberley called to the jurors' attention that this and other Allied countries are today fighting a war designed to blot, among other things, fear from the face of the earth.

"Victim of Gastapo"

He said that while the defendant was a soldier in one of the armies fighting for freedom from fear, he himself had become a victim of an American version of the Gestapo.

The defendant had been beaten and intimidated until he was forced to confess, the lawyer said.

'Lower 13' Killer Of Ensign's Bride Is Executed

see '43

Courier Journal

Salem, Ore., Jan. 5 (U.P.)—Robert E. Lee Folkes, 23, Negro, was executed in the lethal chamber today for the murder of a naval officer's bride in Lower Berth 13 on a Southern Pacific train.

The convicted murderer of Mrs. Martha Virginia James, 21, of Norfolk, Va., walked quickly and unaided to the death chamber, still insisting he was not guilty. A blindfold was placed over his eyes, he shook hands with the chaplain and was dead six minutes later. 1-6-45

Mrs. James was killed the night of January 23, 1943, while aboard a train with her husband, Ensign Richard James, who was in the second section of the train.

Slayer of Police Chief Executed in Virginia

Washington Post 3-2-45

Richmond, Va., March 1 (AP).—Holman Burney Thomas, 41, Lunenburg County Negro, died in the electric chair at the Virginia State penitentiary this morning for the slaying of Kenbridge Chief of Police A. K. Fleming in December of 1943. 3-2-45

Officer Fleming, a native of Drewry, N. C., was attempting to investigate a call in the negro section of Kenbridge when fatally injured. He was brought to a Richmond Hospital where he died. An hour after the shooting, Thomas was arrested. Officer Fleming was shot as he stepped from his automobile, and, before he died, made a statement that Thomas had shot him. 3-2-45

Thomas was first of two men to be executed this week. Raymond (Buster) McDaniel, convicted in the Circuit Court of Campbell County for the murder of Roy A. Alfred, is to die tomorrow.

DEATH SENTENCE GIVEN TO NEGRO ASSAULTER

Commercial Appeal Memphis Tenn.

Attempts To Stab Sheriff Before Trial Starts

1-13-45

Special to The Commercial Appeal

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 12.—Billie Dixon Hickman, negro, was convicted of criminally assaulting a young white woman by a Montgomery County Criminal Court jury late Friday and was sentenced to die in the state electric chair. 1-13-45

Defense counsel entered a motion for a new trial which will be argued next Saturday, Jan. 20.

Hickman, who has been kept in the Davidson County Jail for safekeeping, was returned to that jail Friday night. Friday morning before the trial started, Deputy Dewey Boyd said the negro attempted to stab him with the handle of a spoon which he had sharpened to a fine edge. He said the attack took place while he had Hickman in the jury annex room before court opened. Hickman, Boyd said, then asked him why he didn't kill him.

Murder Charge Facing Huachuca GI Dropped

AFRO-American Baltimore, Md. 1-13-45

PHOSON, Ariz.—A first-degree murder charge against Pvt. Willie Orange of Detroit, indicted for the murder of a white civilian employee at the Fort Huachuca post exchange, was dismissed in Federal District Court on December 11 for insufficient evidence.

Orange had been held following testimony at a preliminary hearing that he had attempted to sell personal pfoperty later identified as the victim's. Anthony T. Doddens, attorney, represented Private Orange for the NAACP. 1-13-45

43e-1945

Whites by Negro Civilians

Negro Taken To Eddyville As Safety Step

Louisville, Ky.

Hopkinsville, Ky., April 27 (AP)—Roscoe Pool, 40-year-old Negro, was taken to the State Penitentiary at Eddyville today, Sheriff Pat H. Major said, as a safety measure while county and state officers investigated the death of Mrs. Virginia Gray Harris, Rural Route 5.

Sheriff Major said Mrs. Harris, wife of Boyd Harris, had been beaten about the head with a blunt instrument while in a barn on the George Harris farm. She died while on the way to a hospital.

Pool notified the husband that he found the woman unconscious as he passed the farm. Deputy Sheriff Howard Major and State Patrolman Marvin McGaha said they became suspicious of the Negro's story and took him out of town.

Trapped By Pri... Writes Confessi...

Atlanta Constitution

1-19-45

By KEELER McCARTNEY.

A 30-year-old Negro burglar, trapped by fingerprints and questioned constantly for 15 hours, has signed a written confession to the robbery-murder of Henry C. Heinz, Atlanta banker, who was shot to death Sept. 28, 1943, in his Ponce de Leon avenue home.

The Negro, Horace Blalock, wrote the confession himself, using a pencil and a sheet of yellow tablet paper. With him when he "decided to tell the truth and ease my mind" were Chief Leo Nahlik, of the DeKalb county police, and Capt. Ben W. Seabrook, of the Atlanta police identification bureau.

Both Nahlik and Seabrook said the Negro took the proffered pencil and tablet, hesitated for a moment and then began to write laboriously. He signed the statement and then asked to see his wife and three small children, who were waiting outside.

TO GRAND JURY AT ONCE

DeKalb Assistant Solicitor J. O. Mitchell said the case could be presented to the DeKalb county grand jury which is now in session. Druid Hills is in DeKalb county.

1-19-45

The final solution to the year-old mystery came at 3 p. m. yesterday, ending a questioning session that began at 10 p. m. Wednesday when Blalock suddenly admitted that he had burglarized the Heinz home several weeks before the slaying and accompanied Millians and other officers to the scene. He showed them how he entered the house and the route he took to Mrs. Heinz' bedroom, where he said he took $80 from a purse on a dressing table.

1-19-45

He weakened more after Mrs. Heinz unhesitatingly picked him out of a police lineup at Fulton Tower as the man she saw grappling with her husband a few minutes before the fatal shots fired.

Bit by bit officers pieced together facts until they had an almost coherent story of the murder. Then the Negro suddenly expressed a desire to "tell the truth in my own way."

His statement, covering three sheets of tablet paper, describe how he entered the Heinz home on the night of the slaying and saw something "I thought was a pocketbook." As he went to get the pocketbook, he said, he was surprised by the banker.

FELL OVER CHAIR 1-19-45

"I fell over a chair trying to get away," he said. "Then he grabbed me. He was too strong for me and he got my gun. He shot me and nearly shot my thumb in two.

"Then the gun fired several times—I don't know how many times."

1-19-45

The Negro's statement then describes how he fled from the Heinz home and threw the gun, a .38-caliber pistol, into the Chattahoochee river at the Bolton bridge.

All through his alleged statement were references to sleepless nights since the slaying. "I ain't never killed nobody," he said, "and I couldn't get this off my mind."

When first arrested after the burglary of the Hughes Spalding home on Peachtree road, the Negro told officers that he "didn't have to wait until people went to sleep before he broke in."

Mrs. Spalding told County Officers A. L. Bone, J. O. Smith and Carl Thompson that she first noticed the man walking calmly through her bedroom, gun in hand. He paid no attention when she called to him and asked him what he was doing, she said, but walked over to a closet, removed a pocketbook from clothing and then left.

PICKED UP SHORTLY

Bond and Smith first stopped Blalock's automobile on Peachtree road for an investigation and took the license number. A short time later, they answered a burglary call to the Spalding home. Finding the burglar fit the description of the man they had stopped, they immediately broadcast a lookout for him.

City officers picked Blalock up a few minutes later and turned him over to the county.

Alert county identification men noticed a marked similarity in Blalock's fingerprints and those found on the Venetian blind of the window through which the Heinz home was entered. They conferred with city identification experts and finally sent the prints to the FBI for a final analysis.

The Negro steadfastly denied having been in the Heinz home at first. Then he admitted a burglary there early in September 1943, but said he underwent a serious chest operation Sept. 13 at Grady hospital and was released from the hospital Sept. 24.

HAD OPERATION 1-19-45

A check of Grady records showed that he actually had a minor operation on Sept. 13, but hospital physicians said that he would have been physically able to commit the crime.

The police lineup identification, the fingerprints and the confession are sufficient to close the case, investigators said, but many small details remain to be cleared up. For instance, the statement does not tell whether the Negro dropped the wrist watch found at the scene of the slaying.

His statement of the wound in the thumb does explain a trail of blood which city detectives followed from the Heinz home across a near-by park.

TAKEN TO RIVER 1-19-45

The statement does not reveal if the intruder actually got money from the slain man, but it tells of Heinz' watch being thrown from the bridge along with the gun.

Millians accompanied Blalock late yesterday to the exact spot where he said the gun and watch were thrown into the river.

The banker was shot to death by an intruder while his wife ran to an adjoining room for a gun. Dr. Bryant King Vann, dentist and son-in-law of Heinz, was wounded in an exchange of shots with policemen as he ran up through the dark in response to a frantic telephone call from Mrs. Heinz.

SOLDIER FACES DEATH PENALTY

Chicago Defender

2-3-45

By JOHN LeFLORE

(Defender Staff Correspondent)

CLARKSDALE, Miss.—Southern justice in the Mississippi delta region moved swiftly, sternly and evidently not without prejudice when the death penalty was imposed Thursday upon Cpl. Lee Arthur Casey, 26-year-old Negro soldier, charged with the slaying of 60-year-old white planter Hal Parchman, less than one month after the latter's death. The soldier was sentenced to die on March 2.

The jury was picked from a special venire of 75 Coahoma county whites summoned in Circuit Court last Tuesday. On Thursday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock—two days later—the 12 announced a verdict of guilty and a sentence of death in the electric chair for the hapless black soldier. However, defense attorneys immediately filed notice of appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Casey was arrested, indicted, tried and sentenced within 30 days after Parchman was either murdered or accidentally killed on old Highway 61.

2-3-45

The white planter met his death at a point near where his automobile ran off an infrequently used road into a ditch when he is said to have been returning Casey's wife and sister-in-law to his plantation from Clarksdale. The two women, Tressie Lee Casey, 19, and her sister, Annie Lee Harper, 27, were tenants on Parchman's place.

Hit by Car

Testimony offered for the state indicated that Casey and his wife had quarreled on Friday, Dec. 22, at the plantation, and that the woman left and went to Clarksdale, a distance of about 15 miles, where she remained until the following Tuesday when she was returning with Parchman to his place at the time he met his death.

Testifying in his own defense, Casey stated that he was walking from Coahoma to Jonestown on the night of Dec. 26, when he accidentally crossed the path of his wife and her sister. He admitted slapping his wife when she could give him no "satisfactory" explanation of her whereabouts from Friday until Tuesday.

He stated that the women ran and that a man jerked his coat in the meantime and demanded, "What the hell are you doing to that woman?" The soldier said that in the darkness he pushed the man down before discovering he was white.

Casey said he then became frightened and ran for about a quarter of a mile down the road when he met Dewitt Hughes—with three girls in a car going in the opposite direction. They picked him up, and as the car rounded a curve near where Parchman's car was in the ditch, a form on the road was struck and dragged about 15 feet. It was the white planter.

2-3-45

Flees Town

Fearful of his safety, he stated that he left Clarksdale that night. He was arrested in Helena, Ark., the next day as he stepped from a bus.

He was taken to Jackson and placed in the Hinds county jail for safe-keeping until his trial.

Defense attorneys insisted that Casey did no more than push Parchman, and did so not knowing that he was a white man at the time. They further contended that the white planter was not killed by the soldier but died after having been struck by an automobile, presumably Hughes'.

BLALOCK DENIES HE TOOK LIFE OF HEINZ

Atlanta World Ga. 3-14-45

Accuses Police Officers Of Framing Up Evidence

Atlanta World Ga.

A crowded DeKalb County courtroom Tuesday afternoon heard Horace Blalock repudiate an alleged confession that he shot to death Henry Heinz, wealthy white Atlanta banker during a burglary attempt.

Blalock accused Fulton County police officers who arrested him January 9 of "framing" him from the beginning. He had been arrested at that time for an alleged burglary at the home of Hughes Spalding in Buckhead. Blalock told the court that he was a hard-working railroad man who knew nothing of the offenses with which he is charged in Fulton and DeKalb counties.

RESTS CASE

The case is expected to reach the all-white jury probably this afternoon, following argumentation by the prosecution and defense counsel. The defense rested its case Tuesday afternoon after a strenuous session.

3-14-45

Despite heated objections of defense counsel, Judge James C. Davis permitted the jury to listen to testimony concerning the series of burglaries alleged to have been committed in Fulton County during the past several years by the defendant. Contentions that the alleged crimes had nothing to do with the alleged murder did not avail before Judge Davis.

Attorneys Joe Ewing and Venerable sought to establish that Blalock had been grilled mercilessly from the time he was arrested, early January 9, 1945, until the afternoon of his alleged confession, January 18. Officers denied putting any great pressure on the accused man. They denied grilling Blalock for 'six or seven hours" at a time.

GOT GOOD LOOK

One white person whose home was alleged burglarized last year and who said he got a good look at the intruder the second time identified Blalock as the man he saw in an escape act. The defense agreed to the recording of similar accounts of burglary, but objected to identification of them with the case on trial.

A timekeeper for the Atlanta Joint Terminals testified that Blalock was absent from employment from September 14, 1943, to November 2, 1943, while J. S. Hale, white of the Bankers' Insurance Company, testified he paid disability insurance to Blalock for injuries to his thumb, that the insurance being paid on a certificate from a Grady Hospital physician. Blalock told the witness that a jack fell on his thumb which was bandaged on two occasions of payment, witness Hale said.

3-14-45

Defense counsel questioned Atlanta Policemen W. M. Miller and M. W. Blackwell, the first officers to reach the Heinz home after the slaying and who described conversation with Mrs. Heinz and of struggling with Mrs. Heinz's son-in-law, Dr. B. K. Vann.

Judge Davis refused to permit an answer to a question put by Defense Attorney Joe Ewing to Officer Blackwell as follows:

"Now, in view of the fact that Mrs. Heinz called the police first, then Grady Hospital, and then Dr. Vann — and we assume Dr. Vann's phone rang a little before it was answered — who would you say should have got to the Heinz home first, you or Dr. Vann.?"

COULDN'T IDENTIFY CULPRIT

Plainclothes Patrolman E. O. Mullen of the Atlanta police, quoted Mrs. Heinz as saying:

"This case will never be solved. I am the only person who saw the man and if he was standing right there by you I couldn't identify him."

On the stand Monday, Mrs. Heinz failed to positively identify Blalock as the man she saw struggling with her slain husband. She had picked him out of a lineup because of a similarity in the contour of his back and his size.

Mrs. Beulah Carraway, ambulance dispatcher, testified she sent an ambulance to the Heinz home at 1640 Ponce de Leon Avenue, N. E., on the night of the slaying, but said the call was made by a man identifying himself as a policeman. She said she received no request from a woman for an ambulance to the Heinz home on that night.

Dr. F. C. Powell, an interne at Grady Hospital at present, but in September, 1943, a senior medical student at Emory, testified from hospital records that Blalock was operated on in September, 1943, for removal of a tumor and that his left breast was removed. On cross examination, Prosecutor Leathers attempted to get him to testify that the operation was a minor one and that Blalock was given a regular diet almost immediately. However, Dr. Powell said the records showed the patient was able to walk about the hospital ward the morning following the operation.

Blalock Denies

Atlanta World - Ga.

Free Confession

1-30-45

Horace Blalock, 30-year-old Atlantan of 1968 Simpson Road, charged with the September 28 1943 slaying of Henry C. Heniz, wealthy Atlanta banker, and indicted last Friday on the accusation, denied Sunday afternoon that he had confessed free and voluntarily to the killing. He denied emphatically that he killed Mr. Heinz, had any connection with slaying, and knew anything about it.

In the presence of his defense counsel, Attorney Joe O. Ewing, of Atlanta, newspaper reporters and interested friends, Blalock told the group that he did not willingly make the confession and that it was written and signed by him on the dictation of police officers making the investigation. Blalock talked with the group for more than an hour in the county jail at Decatur, reciting incidents relative to the alleged confession.

1-30-45

Attorney Ewing stated Sunday after talking with Blalock that all he asks now is that all fair minded citizens of this county and DeKalb County, the latter county where the trial will be held in the March term of Superior Court, will withhold any opinion in the case until all the evidence is heard at the trial. Mr. Ewing stated that in his opinion and by the evidence he now has that Blalick did not and could not have committed the crime. He said that so far as the confession is concerned, it was obtained after nine days of continuous grilling of the defendant by police officers of DeKalb and Fulton counties. He added that during that period Blalock was without practically any sleep, was not allowed to see a lawyer, friends and members of his family, and that he was in complete control of more than a dozen police officials.

SAYS CONFESSION UNTRUE

The defense counsel stated that he will demonstrate at the trial through the alleged confession that a great deal and an important part of the confession is untrue and that the words in it were words dictated to Blalock by police who grilled him. It was stated by Attorney Ewing that Blalock made a request for legal counsel soon after the grilling began after his arrest on January 9, which was refused, and that although he asked constantly for his wife from the date of his arrest to the date of the alleged confession, January 18, he saw her just a few minutes before he is said to have signed the confession. Mr. Ewing stated that Blalock did not see his wife until everything was set for him to sign the confession, and that it was just prior to that period that the officers sent out and got her and had her sit beside him in a room in Fulton Tower to have the public believe that the confession was free and voluntary.

NEGRO IS GIVEN CHAIR IN PARCHMAN MURDER

Commercial Appeal Memphis, Tenn.

Soldier-Slayer Of Coahoma Planter Convicted

1-26-45

Special to The Commercial Appeal

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Jan. 25.— After 47 minutes deliberation, a Circuit Court jury Thursday afternoon found Lee Arthur Casey, 25-year-old negro soldier, guilty of the murder of Hal Parchman, well known planter of Coahoma County, and Judge E. H. Green sentenced the negro to die by electrouction on March 2.

Casey made no statement before sentence was pronunced.

The negro acknowledged that he was near the scene of the crime on the night of Dec. 26 when Mr. Parchman was killed near Coahoma. He said he met his wife coming up the road and he had not seen her for several days. He declared they quarreled and he struck her. Casey declared it was dark and that a man came up behind him and asked what he was doing. He said he could not see whether the man was black or white and he struck him. He denied that he beat the man to death, stating that he thought the man departed. He said he then got into the automobile of another negro, Isadore Dorsey, and drove away.

1-26-45

The state contended that the Dorsey automobile ran over Mr. Parchman after he had been beaten to death.

Casey was arrested the following day at Helena.

According to evidence, Mr. Parchman had brought Casey's wife and two other negroes to Clarksdale to the doctor and was returning when the car skidded into a ditch. It was when Mr. Parchman and the negro women started to walk down the road for help that they met Casey. The negro woman ran and later Mr. Parchman's body was found.

43e-1945

Whites by Negroes Killings

Buford Manhunt On For Ex-Deputy's Slayer

Atlanta Constitution
6-19-45

Will Anderson, Negro, of Gwinnett county, was arrested late yesterday by members of a posse seeking him in the slaying over the weekend of Vaughn D. Roebuck, former deputy sheriff. The Negro was placed in jail in Gainesville for safe-keeping, C. L. Brogdon, Buford, Ga., city manager said.

An intensive manhunt is in progress for the slayer of a former deputy sheriff of Gwinnett county, who died at 5 a. m. yesterday of gunshot wounds inflicted by a 50-year-old Negro man.

Bloodhounds from the Ben Hill prison camp in Fulton county, as well as a posse of state highway patrolmen, Gwinnett county officers, and Buford authorities and citizens, are seeking the Negro.

The victim was Vaughn D. Roebuck, 39, of Buford, who resigned two weeks ago as deputy sheriff of Gwinnett county.

According to W. L. Brogdon, city manager of Buford, Roebuck went with City Sheriff Joe Housch to the home of a Negro named Will Anderson, in "Shadburntown," a Negro section of Buford.

Housch sought to question Anderson about a Negro woman who had been drinking.

Brogdon said Housch told him that he and Roebuck knocked on the front door of the house and called to Anderson to come out and talk with them. The Negro came out, blazing away with a 16-gauge shotgun.

As the withering fire struck Roebuck, the desperately wounded man fired four shots at his assailant. Then he lost consciousness. Housch, who said he was unarmed, took Roebuck to Downey hospital in Gainesville. The Negro fled.

The hunted man was last seen about five miles from Buford, on the Lawrenceville highway, in a section where no Negroes live.

Roebuck is survived by his wife and three children.

Brogdon said Housch told him the men had no charges against Anderson, although the Negro had been drinking, but that they merely wanted to question him about the Negro woman.